

(Mr. García Robles, Mexico)

"Not only would it be a resounding success for multilateral negotiations if the chemical threat was eliminated, but such a victory would also constitute a remarkable achievement in the cause of multilateral disarmament and of international peace and security, in full conformity with the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations."

The necessary conclusion is that chemical weapons must disappear. The inhuman suffering they cause, both among troops and among the innocent civilian population, no longer have a place in the civilized world of today. Consequently, we must redouble our efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to conclude the convention on the elimination of chemical weapons at an early date. This is a fundamental premise which we should not lose sight of in our work: the convention will not represent any threat to the security of any State: on the contrary, it will strengthen the security of one and all.

... Turning to the fifth chapter, dealing with disarmament measures, it should be borne in mind that the United States and the Soviet Union have been able to adopt positive agreements, among which the "Joint Statement at the Moscow Summit", dated 1 July 1988, provides an eloquent example of the efforts that can be made jointly to halt and reverse the arms race and prevent the

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proliferation of nuclear weapons. Concerning the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, it has been possible to reach consensus on most of the basic elements for that objective. It has also been possible to indicate the obligations and responsibilities of both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States with regard to preventing an increase in the numbers of the former and reducing and eventually eliminating nuclear weapons. With regard to other weapons of mass destruction, it has been agreed that all States should accede to the Geneva Protocol. There is agreement that it is necessary to make all possible efforts to secure the positive conclusion of the negotiations that are being carried out in the Conference on Disarmament on an international convention that will bring about the elimination of all chemical weapons; there is also agreement that a treaty should be concluded on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons, bearing in mind the negotiations under way in the Conference on Disarmament and all proposals made in connection therewith.