

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

New proposals on chemical weapons have also been introduced. As was recently stressed by Mikhail Gorbachev they should permit, in our view, before the end of this year or next year, the signing of a convention banning chemical weapons and eliminating stockpiles of such weapons as well as of the industrial base for their production.

We display flexibility, a readiness to search for compromise and mutually acceptable formulas. Suffice it to refer in this connection to our position on the verification of a nuclear-weapon-test ban, on the elimination of chemical weapons and the industrial base for the production of these weapons, and to a whole range of other questions. We have not made a fetish of organizational or procedural issues. For us, the crux of the matter is substance, movement towards the solution of the problem of disarmament. Another special feature of our proposals, and this is something that we have proven more than once, is that we do not consider them to be final. We do not

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consider that discussion of them is impossible. Dialogue and contacts, discussions and negotiations are the way to overcome dead-ends and confrontation. We believe that only in this way can one melt the ice of mutual mistrust and achieve practical results.