

attention should be given to the nature of verification requirements as well as the structure of verification arrangements which would best suit the purpose of each agreement. Without such attention, I am afraid, disarmament agreements cannot function in such a way that the parties to them can place confidence in their effectiveness.

I have used earlier an expression "extremism", and implied that over-emphasis on political will alone, or on scientific details alone, would not lead to a meaningful disarmament arrangement. In our approach to problems, we should have in mind the expression about "the virtue of taking the middle-of-the-road position", which means not that the exact mid-point of two extremisms is necessarily the best solution, but that there is always a need to open our minds and eyes to different points of view. With regard to NTB considerations today, for example, efforts to understand the capabilities and limitations of the available multilateral verification measures seem to represent this virtue of a "middle-of-the-road" approach. This will enable us to take up various related matters that constitute elements of a future nuclear-test ban (NTB) agreement, including the problems of how to deal with nuclear explosions in the unverifiable range. I do not need to repeat that Japan considers the NTB as the highest priority item in disarmament. We have stated our position a number of times in this and other fora. It is in this context that the establishment of multilateral verification capabilities, given the existing technology, and then taking steps towards their gradual improvement, is, in our view, what the Conference on Disarmament can meaningfully accomplish today as long as we are looking at the NTB as a multilateral measure. With regard to chemical weapons, we are all aware that the nations of the world are showing a very positive attitude towards their prohibition and elimination, and the related verification. As active negotiations are taking place, my delegation is second to none in pursuing the objective of an early conclusion of a chemical-weapons convention and we take pride in having made various contributions in the past. Here also, I should like to mention that a workable chemical-weapons agreement should take care to avoid the pitfalls of possible extremism. If the outcome of our negotiations would lead either to a very large loophole in verification or on the other hand to a claim for virtual international control over the entire chemical or pharmaceutical industries of the world, not only would that raise legal problems, but also it would mean either a very unreliable treaty or a highly impractical situation. I shall refrain from further references to the example of IAEA, but merely note that the willingness of the Conference on Disarmament to take its experience into account in defining the range of verification requirements regarding either chemicals or their precursors would be extremely important. I should like to take future opportunities again to present our detailed position to the Conference on Disarmament in due course. Here I would like to add very briefly that there is a similar problem with regard to the outer space. Peaceful outer space is obviously a very important item, to which Japan attaches high priority. However, as far as we are concerned, except for a limited knowledge and experience regarding exploration of outer space for peaceful uses, we have to confess that our understanding and knowledge of the related space activities are not at all based on our own experience. It is very difficult, therefore, for us to engage in detailed discussions on space arms control on the basis of published and often popular information. We believe that the examination of the problem of outer space starting from an exploratory approach at the outset, with those in a position to know providing information, would be most appropriate and meaningful.

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For a chemical weapons ban to work, each party must have confidence that the other parties are abiding by it. This elementary, commonsense principle is the essence of