

(The President)

... It is my view that the conclusion of the negotiations on a chemical weapons convention is within reach. The Ad Hoc Committee will resume its work today. The current conflict in the Middle East has once again illustrated the importance and urgency of these negotiations.

(Mr. Jeszenszky, Hungary)

... With remarkable intensity the Conference on Disarmament is performing its task of elaborating a multilateral convention on the comprehensive and total prohibition of chemical weapons and the destruction of their stockpiles. The problem of chemical weapons is, of course, only one of several items on the agenda of the Conference. There are other items, many of them highly important, on which subsidiary bodies are now functioning but where no major breakthrough has been achieved over a prolonged period of time. On some other items, even getting down to substantial work has for years been impossible.

The "Decalogue" of the Conference was created to be a wide and flexible framework, covering practically all aspects of disarmament. The present agenda, built on the basis of this Decalogue, concentrates the efforts of the Conference on weapons of mass destruction. Given the enormous destructive power of such weaponry, no reasoning is needed to justify that special attention. Nevertheless, we cannot forget that the nuclear and chemical threats are not the only dangers facing mankind. The Decalogue provides us with a very useful umbrella, and it might be opportune to start thinking whether the present agenda could be developed through a gradual and realistic adjustment in order to face the realities of the world.