

(Mr. Larco Cox, Peru)

... The Paris Conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons gave new hope to the international community by making possible consensus among 149 States regarding the full validity of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the need for the speediest conclusion of the current negotiations in order to eliminate chemical weapons forever. The Final Declaration is an essential point of reference for the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. The universal nature of the future convention calls for a concerted effort that must encompass all States during the final period of negotiations. At the same time the verification system, though not perfect, must maintain mutual trust and be

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appropriate in terms of costs and benefits. Finally, there is no doubt that the prohibition of chemical weapons must be absolute, with neither loopholes nor ambiguities, and the commitment entered into must be free from any reservations.

(Mr. Houlliez, Belgium)

... An accurate description of the general improvement in the international atmosphere would not be complete without mentioning the Paris Conference on chemical weapons, which invited the Conference on Disarmament, after 17 years of negotiations, to conclude as soon as possible the convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons, and on their destruction. This appeal meets the expectation of all of mankind, which is concerned about the awful danger of these weapons. The international situation is favourable for the continuation of our work towards the final conclusion of our convention. It is essential that the success and hopes mentioned at the beginning of my statement should take concrete shape in the area of chemical disarmament too.