

Mr. HAN (Democratic People's Republic of Korea):

... The positive progress in disarmament and relaxation this year encourages those of us who are trying to overcome a lot of difficulties in negotiations. I think it is one of the merits of the Conference that, although no significant progress and breakthrough has been made, discussion on major issues has become substantive, especially on chemical weapons, and many more non-member countries have participated in the Conference.

World peace and the security of mankind are of concern for all countries and for all peoples. World peace and security and disarmament, being issues directly affecting the existence of ourselves and the coming generations irrespective of the size of countries, their military power and their level of scientific and technological development, have become a growing concern of all. Now the international political situation is gradually tending towards disarmament and relaxation. It is worthy of note that the abolition of medium-range and shorter-range missiles has been started and negotiations on 50 per cent cuts in strategic weapons and on chemical weapons are under way in the talks between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States.

(Mr. Han, Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

... Chemical weapons aimed at mass destruction pose a great threat to world peace and security together with nuclear weapons. Today the need to abolish chemical weapons completely has become one of the burning issues in international politics amid rising public concern, which constitutes a favourable environment for the Conference on Disarmament. The international conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons held last January in Paris played an important role; on the occasion of the Paris Conference the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea signed the Geneva Protocol of 1925. On 26 January this year, in a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, our Government reaffirmed its ban on the production, storage and import of chemical weapons and its refusal to allow the transit of foreign countries' chemical weapons through our land, airspace or territorial waters.

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