

(Mr. Ardekani, Islamic Republic of Iran)

will be judged - on their future co-operation and participation in the Conference on Disarmament. Their performance in other areas in easing tensions and moving toward peace will also be under advisement and evaluation.

Mr. MOREL (France) (translated from French): Mr. President, allow me to thank you for your very kind words and to thank all the delegations here for the trust that they have just shown, first of all in my country, in my delegation and finally in me personally. I would like to take up the very words of Mr. Roland Dumas, Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, who said a few days ago, in this very room, that we were very appreciative of the honour and responsibility conferred on us in this way with the chairmanship of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. For my part I would add that we will do everything within our power to live up to this honour and responsibility. Allow me also on this occasion to thank all my colleagues here for the gestures of friendship, encouragement and good wishes that have been extended to us. I can say very sincerely that they will enable us to cope together and to deal with very demanding tasks in our work. These signs of friendship, this encouragement, these wishes also show that, beyond political will, above and beyond the facilities that are made available, there is a human and personal element without which no major endeavour is possible.

Next I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Ambassador Sujka, who in an exceptional way represents in the Conference, and in particular with regard to chemical weapons, continuity and also, in a certain way, the history of these negotiations, because he was Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons twice. And I would like to emphasize that what he accomplished with his three group chairmen, and with contributions from all delegations, during the year 1988, was a remarkable effort on the substance, which is reflected in the "rolling text", but which goes beyond what is recorded in the "rolling text". I am stressing this because I think that without that effort, what was achieved at the Paris Conference would have remained slightly insubstantial, and that as a result of the work accomplished in 1988 that achievement, on the contrary, can now take on its true dimensions.

And this will be my last point. The impetus has been building up for a long time. We must pursue it and build on it. The best way of responding to