

(Mr. Friedersdorf, United States)

I would like to conclude today by noting with satisfaction that our chemical weapons negotiations have resumed in earnest. My delegation looks forward to registering real advances, both on the basic issues that remain to be resolved, and on the many key details that need to be worked out. To facilitate understanding of chemical weapons verification issues and to assist our efforts here, the United States has invited the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union, Ambassador Nazarkin, and appropriate Soviet experts to visit the United States chemical weapons destruction facility in Tooele, Utah. This would include a visit to a chemical weapons bunker. I want to say to Ambassador Nazarkin today that this invitation remains open, and that I hope he can accept it.

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(Mr. Friedersdorf, United States)

General Secretary Gorbachev, in a statement made in Moscow on 23 June, noted that the Soviet Union is building a chemical weapons destruction facility. Secretary of State Shultz had suggested, earlier this year, that the two sides exchange visits to the sites of their destruction facilities. These visits would be practical examples of confidence-building in the field of chemical weapons arms control. They would add to other encouraging achievements in confidence-building. One of these is the recent United States-Soviet agreement on a draft joint text to establish nuclear risk reduction centres in their capitals. This agreement, which is a direct result of a United States initiative, is a practical measure that will strengthen international security by reducing the risk of conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union that might result from accident, misunderstanding or miscalculation.