

(The President)

... It is always hoped that the message forwarded to the United Nations General Assembly by the Conference on Disarmament in its annual report will record progress in the negotiations carried out under its auspices. On this occasion it is striking that genuine progress has been made in dealing with the subject of chemical weapons. Of clear importance in these negotiations is the inclusion of the reference to the prohibition of use in the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee, as well as in relevant parts of the draft convention, and provisions on the total destruction of chemical weapons. We recognize the encouraging turn taken by these negotiations as a result of the decision of the United States Administration not to use chemical weapons against any country, in any circumstances, and to destroy all its arsenals of such weapons. As stipulated in its mandate, the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons is to intensify its work with the aim of achieving final agreement on the convention by 1992. I should like to encourage all delegations to continue their efforts to that end.

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Mr. LEDOGAR (United States of America):

... Secondly, I would like to introduce a United States paper that deals with a national trial challenge inspection at a United States commercial chemical production facility last year. This inspection represents one of a series of such exercises that the United States Government is carrying out at commercial and government facilities. Rather than go into the details at this time of the lessons learned during this productive experience, I will simply note that the paper has been turned over to the secretariat for circulation as an official Conference document. It should be available to you shortly.

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