

President: Mr. Aldo Pugliese (Italy)

If the negotiations on chemical weapons are of special relevance at the present stage, I also believe that it is most appropriate that this Conference should address the whole spectrum of issues on its agenda, ranging from nuclear weapons to outer space issues and a comprehensive programme of disarmament, with equal good will and constructive spirit. As President I will seek to explore all possible avenues towards the solution of the various problems we have to tackle, to permit a start on substantive work without delay. While not underestimating the many difficulties involved, I shall make every effort to discharge my responsibilities as President of the Conference during this month to the best of my abilities. In so doing I obviously intend to operate in the closest possible contact with each delegation, counting of course on the spirit of co-operation and flexibility of all.

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Mr. KOMATINA (Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations):

I will now read the message of the Secretary-General addressed to the Conference.

(...)

"The Conference on Disarmament remains entrusted with the consideration of a number of other important questions of a global character which also require urgent multilateral action. Among these are issues of nuclear disarmament, in particular those relating to a nuclear test ban, and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Progress in those areas can decisively bring near the achievement of acknowledged goals in the field of disarmament. As the international situation improves, so must the Conference, as the single multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament, meet the challenges before it.

"I wish you every success in your negotiations."