

(Mr. Nazarkin, USSR)

chemical weapons. In essence, the States participating in the Conference in Paris declared their intention of working towards the complete prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons.

We listened with keen interest to the statement made at the meeting on 7 February by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of France, Mr. R. Dumas, who officially introduced the Paris Final Act and set out interesting ideas about ways to step up negotiations on the convention. Whilst giving due credit to the considerable contribution made by the initiators and organizers of the Paris Conference, I would nevertheless venture to express the view that the success in Paris would have been impossible without the progress achieved in the past few years at the Geneva negotiations on chemical weapons. It was not only a refusal to accept chemical weapons, but also the understanding that the issue of their complete prohibition was ripe for a final solution, and that nearly all the basic elements of the future convention have already been worked out, which made it possible to draft the provisions on the early conclusion of the convention that appeared in the Paris Declaration. Thus, by building upon the progress already achieved and giving a power impetus to further efforts, the Paris Conference became a major event marking the entry of the negotiations into their decisive stage.

We believe that now it is extremely important, without losing momentum, to translate the Paris Declaration into the language of the Geneva negotiations, to transform the political provisions agreed therein into concrete positions. We regard this document as a direct instruction to urgently redouble our efforts to resolve expeditiously the remaining issues and to conclude the convention at the earliest date. This objective is based on a realistic assessment of the situation. In actual fact relatively few unresolved issues remain. Furthermore, work on these issues is now well advanced, with greater or lesser progress having been made on each in the form of a greater or lesser degree of agreement on political or technical problems.

The Soviet Union has done everything in its power to eliminate difficulties with the future convention. In particular, during the last inter-sessional period we developed our position as regards permitted production of schedule [1] chemicals. The Soviet side has agreed to laboratory synthesis of small amounts of such chemicals (up to 100 grams) for research and medical purposes provided the convention ensures the strict prohibition of the development of chemical weapons everywhere. We have also expressed our readiness to include provisions in the convention under which it would be possible in each individual case to give consideration to production of schedule [1] chemicals outside a small-scale facility in amounts exceeding 100 grams for pharmaceutical purposes, with a specific amount laid down for each chemical depending on its characteristics and specific uses, naturally under effective international controls. As you know, these steps of ours have already made it possible to move towards agreement on article VI. According to the assessment made by the distinguished representative of Sweden, Mrs. M.-B. Theorin, in her statement here in the Conference on 7 February 1989, they "demonstrate a constructive and flexible approach to the negotiations and could serve as a basis for agreement". Yet, the solution of the remaining problems does not depend only on us. The elaboration of the convention is a multilateral process in which forward movement can be assured