

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

... We cannot fail to derive satisfaction from the continuing positive trends in the development of international relations which many speakers before me have referred to here. These trends emerged once again during the May visit to Moscow by United States Secretary of State, James Baker, which we regard as a good beginning to a major undertaking, a serious and substantial dialogue. During the visit, agreement was reached in particular to set in motion once again the Soviet-American machinery for negotiations and consultations on a wide range of arms limitation and disarmament problems, including nuclear and space weapons, the prohibition of chemical weapons, and the limitation and cessation of nuclear tests. This is important because in disarmament matters the pace of negotiations is extremely significant, since the forces of inertia and the constraints are considerable. This is why we would like to end the pause in the negotiating process as soon as possible and begin intensive discussion of outstanding issues.

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(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

... In general the spirit of the times is noticeable in the NATO documents, although both the text and the subtext still contain many concepts inherited from the period of confrontation, including those serving ideologically motivated didactic purposes. From time to time they crop up in the discussions at our Conference. The understandings reached between the USSR and the Federal Republic of Germany during M.S. Gorbachev's visit to that country are of fundamental and long-term significance. We believe that they have imparted new dynamism to the process of East/West co-operation, overcoming the legacy of the "cold war". The joint statement on the results of the visit not only sets out basic approaches to the creation of a Europe of peace and co-operation and the further development of bilateral relations, but in fact puts forward a programme of concrete action in the area of arms limitation and disarmament, including the prohibition of chemical weapons, the cessation of nuclear tests, confidence-building, the development of transparency and the prevention of crises. The foreign ministers agreed on a special statement on the prohibition of chemical weapons aimed at the speedy implementation of the decisions of the Paris Conference.