

(Mr. Varga, Hungary)

distinguished Conference in concert with every delegation to attain our common goals - a world without arms and fear, progressing uninterruptedly with the elaboration of effective international agreements banning chemical weapons and contributing to disarmament in other fields as well. I am happy to observe among the reasons why the present international conditions are propitious for positive developments the negotiations between the United States of America and the Soviet Union, the two super-Powers, leading hopefully towards nuclear disarmament, the European conventional force reduction talks, the fading away of the numerous hotbeds of war in the world, the Eastern European spring in democracy, their striving for sweeping political, economic and social reforms, and so on. I am confident that our negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament will help to create favourable conditions for a more peaceful world, in justice and security for the betterment and benefit of mankind.

Mr. LEDOGAR (United States of America):

... Two weeks ago, I had occasion to address the Conference on chemical weapons. Chemical weapons is not my main topic this morning, but I would like to underscore the thrust of Minister Batsanov's statement last Thursday. My Government is pleased with the productive nature of the CW United States-Soviet bilateral round just completed. Our joint progress in reaching a bilateral agreement on destruction of chemical weapons stocks can only further efforts in this body to finish drafting a multilateral CW convention at the earliest date.

Chemical weapons are high on the United States Government's arms control agenda. Let me turn to the subject of nuclear weapons, another item on this agenda. We start from the fact that for more than 40 years, a strong nuclear deterrent has been necessary to ensure the security of the United States. It has helped preserve the security and freedom of our allies and friends. The long European peace of the last 45 years has, I believe, led to the situation we have today, in which the winds of freedom are sweeping through so many countries. The long period of stability has purchased time in which our attention could turn from survival to human and political rights.