

(Mr. Dietze, German Democratic Republic)

... All this goes to show that the year 1990 has made a promising start. Now let us contribute our share to ensure that it does, in fact, become the year of disarmament. What could serve this aim better than completing the convention banning chemical weapons? The German Democratic Republic has, without ifs and buts, pronounced itself in favour of the global, comprehensive and effectively verifiable prohibition of chemical weapons. It figures among those States which have declared that they do not possess chemical weapons, and applies strict export controls to dual-purpose chemicals.

We stand committed to the agreements reached in Paris and to the outcome of the Canberra Conference. We are in favour of making 1990 the crucial year in concluding a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons, as well as on their destruction. What encourages us in this endeavour is the joint Soviet-American statement on chemical weapons recently agreed in Moscow, as well as the readiness of the USSR and the United States to start reducing chemical weapons before the entry into force of the convention outlawing them. Furthermore, we are encouraged by the Soviet Declaration on cessation of the production of chemical weapons, and hope that this will not remain a unilateral move. We feel encouraged by the mandate of the CW Committee agreed upon some days ago here in this forum.

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