

(Mr. Komatina, Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations)

- "The prospects of a ban on chemical weapons are far more promising now than before. The international community certainly expects that everything will be done to accelerate progress on this important measure in order to achieve a convention at the earliest date.

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The PRESIDENT: The 436th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament is resumed.

On behalf of the Conference, it is my privilege to extend a very warm welcome to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia, Mr. Bohuslav Chnoupek, who will be addressing us. The Minister for Foreign Affairs is visiting the Conference for the third time, an indication of the interest with which he follows our work on vital questions relating to disarmament. I gladly take this opportunity to stress the fraternal ties which exist between my country and his, and which encompass close co-operation in the quest for disarmament. Clear evidence is provided by our joint initiatives for the conclusion and implementation of the INF agreement, as well as for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free and chemical-weapon-free zones in Central Europe. I wish Minister Chnoupek a successful visit to Geneva, and I am sure that members will listen to his statement with particular interest.

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(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

- The Stockholm Declaration contains a paragraph that seemed to me to be the most appropriate with which to close my statement, since it highlights the concern of its authors about the future of the United Nations organ dealing with disarmament. The paragraph in question reads as follows:

"The Conference on Disarmament, the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, should be strengthened and made a more effective instrument for achieving nuclear disarmament and for the elimination of all other weapons of mass destruction. A convention for the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons should be urgently concluded. It would also provide an example for future efforts in the multilateral field."