

(Mr. Yamada, Japan)

To sum up, we should aim to build substantive agreements one by one at this advanced stage.

Besides the CTB and chemical weapons, we are also expected to make substantial progress, during this spring session, on the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament.

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(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

As to item 4, my delegation would like to express its satisfaction with the results achieved by the Conference at its 1986 session and during the inter-sessional period. Under the able guidance of Ambassador Cromartie of Great Britain, the Ad Hoc Committee succeeded in resolving a number of important issues related to the chemical weapons stocks, the chemical weapons production facilities and the activities not prohibited by the convention.

It is gratifying to note that the progress achieved at informal consultations warranted an updating of the rolling text of the draft convention to incorporate the addition of common ground identified during the inter-sessional period.

We share the view that momentum has been generated, and it must be sustained. In fact, it is necessary for the Conference to intensify its efforts by increasing the tempo of its negotiations. We believe that in 1987 our objective should be to finalize the convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. While we do not tend to underestimate the remaining difficulties, we think that this objective is not beyond the reach of the Conference. There is no doubt in our mind that the Conference made a very wise decision in giving, at this crucial stage of the negotiations, the steering wheel of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons into the hands of Ambassador Rolf Ekéus.

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(Mr. Morelli-Pando, Peru)

With respect to the established continuity of the ad hoc committees on items 4 and 8 of our agenda, my delegation wishes to state the following. With regard to the prohibition of chemical weapons, we once again express our hope that the efforts currently under way to achieve a comprehensive and global treaty in this field may be completed this year, as has continually been requested by the competent international forums and also significantly and recently, by the Second Review Conference of the Treaty prohibiting biological weapons. Recognition should be given to the work done recently by the Ad Hoc Committee under the expert guidance of the distinguished representative of Great Britain, and now entrusted to the distinguished representative of Sweden, from whose guidance we may hope for very good results.