

(Mr. Wegener, Federal Republic of Germany)

documents which they themselves have submitted, and should now prepare for a meeting of minds on the greatest common denominator of all delegations, provided their essential security interests are, in an objective view, fully covered. I need not reiterate the fervent commitment of my delegation to the early conclusion of a permanent and comprehensive, reliably verified chemical-weapons ban. I feel confident that when the Conference resumes its negotiations by mid-January — the early meeting date towards which my delegation had worked — all delegations, by intensive and conscientious work in capitals will have created the prerequisites for making next year's annual session into an even more fruitful endeavour towards the final objective of a fully negotiated convention. This time we have been able to smoothen the transition into the next session by agreeing on the mandate of our negotiating organ and about its future chairman ahead of time. With my gratitude to Ambassador Ekéus for his farsighted stewardship in 1984, I would like to combine my good wishes to the representative of Poland, Ambassador Turbanski, for a successful tenure as the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons in 1985.

(Mr. Fields, United States)

On 18 April 1984, Vice-President George Bush presented to this Conference the draft text of a comprehensive convention banning chemical weapons. He stated that the draft both represented the views of the United States and incorporated the views of many other delegations reflected in years of deliberation on this subject in the Conference on Disarmament. Most importantly, he stressed that our text is negotiable and my delegation is ready — indeed, eager — to negotiate with our colleagues in this Conference an effective and verifiable ban on chemical weapons. Let me say once again that our text is negotiable. Its words, and the approaches to its objectives, are ours. The draft represents our best effort to accomplish the type of convention which, we believe, is the shared desire of all delegations. But if there are other approaches or words to accomplish an effective and verifiable ban, then we are quite prepared to consider them seriously. This, after all, is the very essence of negotiation.