

(Mr. Andreotti, Italy)

The globality of their destruction, as in the case of INFs, shunning the illusion of partial balances, all the more if we consider the possibility for these weapons to be quickly transferred from one location to another,

Lastly, verifiability, which must be all the more rigorous and strict, the more closely related their components are to the industrial production process - as is the case for chemical weapons.

We are all aware - especially as Members of this Organization - of the need to sustain the present fast pace of the negotiating process through rapid and tangible results. The two major Powers have imparted greater speed to their bilateral dialogue, in line with the timetable they have drawn up for themselves, starting with the Moscow summit, which should take place within the first six months of 1988.

The INF Treaty, in fact, constitutes only a first step, which must be followed by others, entailing the drastic reduction of strategic armaments, the elimination of chemical weapons, and the re-establishment of the conventional equilibrium at lower levels. The conclusion of the Washington Treaty, to which the Europeans have made a fundamental contribution, must therefore be considered as a first move - and it is thus considered by Italy and Western Europe - in a long process aimed at achieving a more stable and transparent military balance. We certainly recognize the difficulties of this process, and are aware of the logical connections between its phases, though these should not be seen as the motive for insisting on a rigid time sequence. It should be clear to all, however, that negotiations should aim at establishing enhanced security, which is not merely the other party's insecurity. My presence here today, together with the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, is intended to bear witness to the firm political commitment which Italy strongly feels and wishes to fulfil vis-à-vis the entire international community for the attainment of this goal.

In the conventional field, Italy is participating in Vienna - together with the 22 other countries whose forces have an immediate bearing upon the military balance in Europe - in informal talks aimed at starting a new negotiation on conventional stability, at lower levels, from the Atlantic to the Urals.

The disparities and asymmetries existing in the field of conventional forces indeed constitute a traditional source of tension and of serious distress in our continent. It is therefore necessary to redress them, and, as an urgent priority, capabilities to launch surprise attacks and to initiate large-scale military operations should be eliminated, so that we may concretely and effectively promote conditions of increased security, and of improved mutual confidence.

Chemical weapons increase general insecurity. Historically, they were the first arms which Europe's conscience rejected, considering them to be incompatible with the degree of development reached by our societies. This was done at a time when antagonisms were at a peak. Concerns on chemical