

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 27 JANUARY 1989 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON
DISARMAMENT, TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE FINAL ACT OF
THE PARIS CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE 1925 GENEVA
PROTOCOL AND OTHER INTERESTED STATES, INCLUDING THE
FINAL DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE, ADOPTED ON 11 JANUARY 1989

I have the honour to enclose the text of the Final Act of the
Paris Conference of States Parties to the 1925 Geneva Protocol and Other
Interested States, including the Final Declaration of the Conference, adopted
on 11 January 1989.

I would be grateful if you would have these texts distributed as official
documents of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) Pierre MOREL

FINAL ACT OF THE PARIS CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO
THE 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL AND OTHER INTERESTED STATES

1. The Conference of States Parties to the 1925 Geneva Protocol and Other Interested States on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons was held, on the invitation of the Government of the French Republic, in Paris from 7 to 11 January 1989.

The Governments of the following 149 States were represented at the Conference:

Afghanistan; Albania; Algeria; Angola; Argentina; Australia; Austria; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Belgium; Belize; Benin; Bolivia; Brazil; Brunei; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Burma; Burundi; Cameroon; Canada; Cape Verde; Central African Republic; Chad; Chile; China; Colombia; Comoros; Congo; Cook Islands; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Cuba; Cyprus; Czechoslovakia; Democratic Kampuchea; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Democratic Yemen; Denmark; Djibouti; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Equatorial Guinea; Ethiopia; Finland; France; Gabon; Gambia; German Democratic Republic; Germany, Federal Republic of; Ghana; Greece; Grenada; Guatemala; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Haiti; Holy See; Hungary; Iceland; India; Indonesia; Iran, Islamic Republic of; Iraq; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Jamaica; Japan; Jordan; Kenya; Kuwait; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Lebanon; Lesotho; Liberia; Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; Luxembourg; Madagascar; Malawi; Malaysia; Mali; Malta; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; Monaco; Mongolia; Morocco; Mozambique; Nepal; Netherlands; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; Norway; Oman; Pakistan; Panama; Papua New Guinea; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Republic of Korea; Romania; Rwanda; Samoa; San Marino; Sao Tome and Principe; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Somalia; South Africa; Spain; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Suriname; Swaziland; Sweden; Switzerland; Syrian Arab Republic; Thailand; Togo; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Turkey; Uganda; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United Republic of Tanzania; United States of America; Uruguay; Venezuela; Viet Nam; Yemen; Yugoslavia; Zaire; Zambia; Zimbabwe.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament also attended.

2. At the opening session, held on 7 January 1989, the President of the French Republic, Mr. François MITTERAND, declared the Conference open. The Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Federico MAYOR, welcomed the participants to the Headquarters of his Organization, where the proceedings of the Conference were held. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier PEREZ DE CUELLAR, delivered a speech. The President of the French Republic, Mr. François MITTERAND, addressed the Conference.

3. The Conference elected as President Mr. Roland DUMAS, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic.

The Conference elected as Vice-Presidents the heads of delegation of the following States: Bangladesh; Brazil; Cameroon; Japan; Mexico; Morocco; Poland; Sweden; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.

The Conference elected Mr. Kalevi SORSA, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland, as President of the Committee of the Whole.

The Conference elected Dr. Peter VARKONYI, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic, as President of the Credentials Committee.

4. The Secretary-General of the Conference was Mr. Claude ARNAUD, Ambassador of France. He was assisted by Mr. Jean de PONTON d'AMECOURT, Executive Secretary-General, Mr. Jean-Marc ROCHEREAU de la SABLIERE, Deputy Secretary-General (for the Conference in plenary session), and Mr. Philippe GUELLUY, Deputy Secretary-General (for the Committee of the Whole).

5. The Conference held nine plenary sessions, during which 109 delegations spoke in the general debate.

6. The Committee of the Whole held six sessions, during which it examined and finalized the draft Final Declaration of the Conference. The President of the Committee of the Whole reported to the Conference.

7. The Credentials Committee comprised, in addition to its President, delegates of the following States: Argentina; Australia; Austria; Czechoslovakia; Indonesia; Nigeria; Peru; Philippines and Senegal.

The Credentials Committee held two meetings, at which it examined the credentials of representatives.

The Conference adopted the report of the Credentials Committee, the text of which is annexed to this Final Act.

8. The Conference adopted this Final Act together with the Final Declaration set out below:

In witness whereof the undersigned have appended their signatures to the original copy deposited in the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic.

The President of the Conference

Roland DUMAS

The Secretary-General of the Conference

Claude ARNAUD

Done at Paris, on 11 January 1989

FINAL DECLARATION

The representatives of States participating in the Conference on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, bringing together States Parties to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and other interested States in Paris from 7 to 11 January 1989, solemnly declare the following:

1. The participating States are determined to promote international peace and security throughout the world in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and to pursue effective disarmament measures. In this context, they are determined to prevent any recourse to chemical weapons by completely eliminating them. They solemnly affirm their commitments not to use chemical weapons and condemn such use. They recall their serious concern at recent violations as established and condemned by the competent organs of the United Nations. They support the humanitarian assistance given to the victims affected by chemical weapons.
2. The participating States recognize the importance and continuing validity of the Protocol for the prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and bacteriological methods of warfare, signed on 17 June 1925 in Geneva. The States Parties to the Protocol solemnly reaffirm the prohibition as established in it. They call upon all States which have not yet done so to accede to the Protocol.
3. The participating States stress the necessity of concluding, at an early date, a Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons, and on their destruction. This Convention shall be global and comprehensive and effectively verifiable. It should be of unlimited duration. To this end, they call on the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to redouble its efforts, as a matter of urgency, to resolve expeditiously the remaining issues and to conclude the Convention at the earliest date. All States are requested to make, in an appropriate way, a significant contribution to the negotiations in Geneva by undertaking efforts in the relevant fields. The participating States therefore believe that any State wishing to contribute to these negotiations should be able to do so. In addition, in order to achieve as soon as possible the indispensable universal character of the Convention, they call upon all States to become parties thereto as soon as it is concluded.
4. The participating States are gravely concerned by the growing danger posed to international peace and security by the risk of the use of chemical weapons as long as such weapons remain and are spread. In this context, they stress the need for the early conclusion and entry into force of the Convention, which will be established on a non-discriminatory basis. They deem it necessary, in the meantime, for each State to exercise restraint and to act responsibly in accordance with the purpose of the present declaration.
5. The participating States confirm their full support for the United Nations in the discharge of its indispensable role, in conformity with its Charter. They affirm that the United Nations provides a framework and an instrument enabling the international community to exercise vigilance with respect to the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons. They confirm their support for appropriate and effective steps

taken by the United Nations in this respect in conformity with its Charter. They further reaffirm their full support for the Secretary-General in carrying out his responsibilities for investigations in the event of alleged violations of the Geneva Protocol. They express their wish for early completion of the work undertaken to strengthen the efficiency of existing procedures and call for the co-operation of all States, in order to facilitate the action of the Secretary-General.

6. The participating States, recalling the Final Document of the first Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to Disarmament in 1978, underline the need to pursue with determination their efforts to secure general and complete disarmament under effective international control, so as to ensure the right of all States to peace and security.
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