COMMITTEE FOR CONFERENCE OF NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES

DISCUSS TENTATIVE AGENDA

The Preparatory Committee for the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States discussed this afternoon a tentative agenda for the proposed Conference.

The Committee will meet again at 3:00 p.m. tomorrow, Thursday, 6 July.

The Committee was established by the President of the General Assembly under resolution 2153 B (XXI) to make appropriate arrangements for the convening of a Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States and to consider the question of the association of nuclear States with the work of the Conference.

Under the resolution, the Conference is "to meet not later than July 1968 to consider the following and other related questions:

"(a) How can the security of the non-nuclear States best be assured?

"(b) How many non-nuclear Powers co-operate among themselves in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons?

"(c) How can nuclear devices be used for exclusively peaceful purposes?"

In taking the decision, the Assembly, in the preamble to the resolution, expressed its conviction that the further spread of nuclear weapons would endanger the peace and security of all States and that "the emergence of additional nuclear-weapon Powers would provoke an uncontrollable nuclear arms race".

Tentative Agenda

The tentative agenda, as it now stands, is as follows:

1. The Security of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States
   -- Security guarantees and other methods of assuring the security of non-nuclear-weapon States

(more)

* Members of the Preparatory Committee are Chile, Dahomey, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Malta, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Spain and the United Republic of Tanzania.
2. The Prevention of the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons through Co-operation among Non-Nuclear-Weapon States
   (a) The question of the renunciation of the production or acquisition of nuclear weapons by non-nuclear-weapon States in the context of disarmament
   (b) The co-operation among non-nuclear-weapon States in avoiding the presence of nuclear weapons on their territory.

Items on the draft provisional agenda prepared by the officers of the Committee which are still to be discussed by the Committee are:

3. Peaceful Nuclear Programmes
   (a) Access to technology for peaceful uses from nuclear explosions
   (b) The question of peaceful explosions for non-nuclear-weapon States.


The Committee also plans to discuss the economic and security implications of the production and acquisition of nuclear weapons by non-nuclear-weapon States.

Views Expressed in Discussion

The Chairman, Burundi Nabwera (Kenya), said that recent happenings had highlighted the need for nuclear non-proliferation and general disarmament to guarantee the security of all nations.

Arvid Pardo (Malta) said it was very difficult to comment on the costs of a conference when no decision had been made regarding participation in the conference.

The Under-Secretary of the Office of Conference Services, Jiri Nosek, said that Geneva had indicated that it could not guarantee services during the Spring of 1968, and had suggested meeting there between 12 August and 20 September.

Regarding the provisional draft agenda prepared by the officers of the Committee, Maxime Zollner ( Dahomey) asked for clarification as to the meaning of two items under the security of non-nuclear-weapon States: "Security guarantees in the context of non-proliferation" and "Security implications of the production and acquisition of nuclear weapons". He asked if the authors had meant security guarantees from non-nuclear States only or in relation with the nuclear Powers.

(more)
Peter Lai (Malaysia), the Rapporteur, said that the first guarantee referred to the security guarantee of non-nuclear Member States and was "wrapped up in the whole question of the non-nuclear States and of how their security would be guaranteed if they renounced the acquisition of nuclear arms.

Regarding the second guarantee, he said that a study was being made by experts, appointed by the Secretary-General, regarding the economic and security implications if States decided to acquire nuclear weapons.

Mr. Agha Shahi (Pakistan) said the idea behind the Conference should not be that of a general disarmament -- a very complex issue which the General Assembly had debated for 20 years. The Conference should only consider the question of nuclear proliferation. A number of nations felt they must decide whether to manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons, and if not, what steps they should take to guarantee their security.

The non-proliferation treaty, in the text that had so far been made known, did not deal with this question of security against a nuclear threat, he said, and this was the primary reason for calling the Conference.

Mr. Zollner (Dahomey) said that the question of general and complete disarmament was too vast to be considered at any length at the Conference, and he suggested deleting it entirely from the agenda.

Mr. Shahi (Pakistan) said his delegation would be glad to submit a working paper on the agenda early next week.

Mr. Lai (Malaysia) said that the whole question of security guarantees grew out of non-proliferation.

Manuel Aznar (Spain) suggested that, at the beginning of the Conference a list be made of those non-nuclear Powers which planned to acquire them and those that did not. There were 11 non-nuclear Member States of the United Nations, which were about to get the weapons, he said, and these countries might be thinking of security guarantees in a different way from the others.

It would be better if the Conference imposed the doctrine that States needed security guarantees because they were renouncing nuclear weapons, he declared.

Mr. Zollner (Dahomey) said that the Conference should not be restricted, but should cover every category of non-nuclear States.

Mr. Shahi (Pakistan) said that the question of guarantees should not be linked with a non-proliferation treaty.
Mr. Pardo (Malta) asked if the question of the presence of nuclear weapons in the territories of non-nuclear Powers should be included, coupled with the question of security guarantees and reciprocal inspections.

Before adjourning, the Committee asked the Secretariat to prepare background material on the subject already suggested in the General Assembly and other bodies.

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