

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services

Office of Public Information

United Nations, N.Y.

(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Preparatory Committee for Conference  
of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States  
4th Meeting (PM)

UNITED NATIONS  
CENTRE FOR DISARMAMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF  
POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Reference Press Release GA/3415  
6 July 1967

COMMITTEE FOR CONFERENCE OF NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES  
CONCLUDES PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

The Preparatory Committee for the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States\* this afternoon concluded its preliminary discussion of the tentative agenda and cost estimates for the Conference.

The Committee will hold its next meeting after the adjournment of the current emergency special session of the General Assembly, at which time it will reconsider the tentative agenda and will consider a working paper on that agenda to be prepared by the delegation of Pakistan.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Rapporteur, Peter S. Lai (Malaysia) said that the Committee should be able to draw on the work of other bodies that have considered and are considering the question of disarmament. In this light, he said he hoped to present a list of "well-defined subjects" worth the consideration of the Committee at the next meeting.

Naseem Mirza (Pakistan) said that the factual papers to be prepared by the Secretariat should not be very elaborate. He suggested that they deal with the three major questions outlined in the General Assembly resolution (2153 B (XXI)) that called for the Conference and "just be a record of the various views" that have been previously expressed on the issue.

Turning to the tentative agenda which had been prepared by the officers of the Committee, Mr. Mirza and Victor J. Gauci (Malta) suggested certain additions. (For the agenda, see press release GA/3413 of 5 July.)

(more)

---

\* Members of the Preparatory Committee are Chile, Dahomey, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Malta, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Spain and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Under paragraph 2 of the tentative agenda, sub-paragraph b was changed at the suggestion of the representative of Malta to read:

The co-operation among non-nuclear-weapon States in avoiding the presence of nuclear weapons on their territory, including the establishment of nuclear-free zones;

also at the suggestion of Malta, a new sub-paragraph c, which follows, was added:

Action by non-nuclear-weapon States to promote an international convention to prohibit the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons against countries which have unconditionally renounced their possession of such weapons,

and, at the suggestion of Pakistan, a new sub-paragraph d, which follows, was added:

Provision for bilateral and multi-lateral inspections on reciprocal bases of the nuclear establishments for peaceful purposes in non-nuclear-weapon States.

On paragraph 3 of the agenda, at the suggestion of Malta, a new sub-paragraph b, which follows, was added:

Assistance to non-nuclear-weapon States in the implementation of programmes connected with the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Mr. Gauci (Malta) said that it was not really clear which were the nuclear-weapon States and which were the non-nuclear-weapon States, and that, since there was a suggestion to include the nuclear powers in the Conference, it might be wise not to institutionalize the distinction.

In response, Mr. Mirza (Pakistan) said that the topic of the Conference was the security of the non-nuclear-weapon States and that the distinction was clear. There was a difference between a nuclear State and a nuclear-weapon State, he said.

In response to requests for clarification from Mr. Gauci (Malta), the Rapporteur, Mr. Lai (Malaysia), said that in drafting the then item 3b (now 3c) the Bureau had meant in situations where atomic explosions could be used for peaceful purposes for the non-nuclear-weapon States such as in the digging of canals, and he accepted Mr. Gauci's suggestion that the item be changed to read "The question of peaceful explosions for the benefit of non-nuclear-weapon States".

(more)

Mr. Lai also said that in drafting item 4 the Bureau expected the Conference to make certain decisions which, especially on items 3 and 4 of the agenda, might require the creation of some institutional machinery to bring together the nuclear- and the non-nuclear-weapon States, as in the access to technology for peaceful uses from nuclear explosions.

Mr. Mirza (Pakistan) said an important question was whether the decisions of the Conference should be implemented through the existing organizations of the United Nations and, if so, what role should be played in that implementation by the Security Council -- where there were four nuclear-weapon States -- and the General Assembly. There was also the question of international conventions, already raised by Malta. These ideas raised a "host of questions which must be considered by this Committee", he said.

A.A. Mohammed (Nigeria) said that before the machinery could be discussed, it would have to be decided what role the nuclear-weapon States would play and what form any agreements would take.

He said his delegation favoured an international agreement utilizing the powers of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

Speaking of the Secretariat's tentative cost estimates, Mr. Mirza (Pakistan) said that two meetings a day probably would not be sufficient and he asked that the estimate be revised based on a figure of four meetings a day.

He also suggested that the Committee hire six or eight consultants to draw up a working paper on each of the three major topics, and he asked for a cost estimate for this. Without the documents, he said, it would be very difficult for the non-nuclear-weapon States to cope with the situation if the nuclear-weapon States, with their experience, knowledge, and facts, were to also participate in the Conference.

Turning to the rules of procedure for the Conference, he said the Committee would have to decide the status of the nuclear-weapon States in that meeting. He said that if they were to be full and equal members of the Conference, then they should also be asked to comment on the tentative agenda.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman, Burundi Nabwera (Kenya), termed the discussions useful and he said that he hoped the exchange of views would continue so that the Committee could submit an agenda to the twenty-second session of the General Assembly for its approval.