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Preparatory Committee for Conference
of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States
6th Meeting (PM)

Press Release GA/3433
17 August 1967

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE DECIDES TENTATIVELY TO RECOMMEND GENEVA
AS SITE OF CONFERENCE OF NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES

The Preparatory Committee for the Conference of Non-Nuclear Weapon States* decided tentatively this afternoon to recommend that the Conference be held in Geneva, from 12 March to 5 April 1968, on the understanding that the duration of the Conference might be extended for an additional week or two.

The Committee gave preliminary consideration to the question of cost estimates for the Conference, and requested that draft rules of procedure be prepared.

The Chairman, Burundi Nabwera (Kenya), asked the representatives of Chile, Nigeria and Pakistan to join the members of the bureau in a working group to merge the two drafts before the Committee on the proposed agenda for the Conference. The Committee decided this morning to defer further consideration of the agenda until a working paper from Pakistan (document A/CONF.35/PC/L.6) had been merged with a bureau paper, which the Committee had tentatively approved on 6 July (see press releases GA/3415 and 3432).

The Vice-Chairman of the Committee is Manuel Aznar (Spain), and the Rapporteur is Peter Lai (Malaysia).

The next meeting of the Committee was tentatively scheduled for 3 p.m. Tuesday, 22 August.

In discussing the venue and time of the Conference, A.A. Mohammed (Nigeria) observed that the General Assembly, in resolution 2153 B (XXI) of 17 November 1966, had decided that the Conference should meet "not later than July 1968".

(more)

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

Geneva would be "an excellent place" for the Conference, he said.

M.A. Fom (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, in order to ensure the success of the Conference, New York should be ruled out. Success of the Conference, as his delegation had pointed out previously, would entail the association of the nuclear Powers with it. Representatives of the People's Republic of China would have to be invited. If the Conference were held in New York, he doubted whether there would be any utility to inviting them.

Although the costs would be greater in Geneva, he said, other implications had to be considered.

Naseem Mirza (Pakistan) also said that Geneva would be preferable.

With regard to the duration of the Conference, he said that the four weeks originally envisaged might not be enough.

Mr. Mohammed (Nigeria) said that political reasons might make Geneva preferable. However, perhaps some other Government might invite the Conference to be held elsewhere.

The Committee was informed that it would be possible for the Geneva Office of the United Nations to service the Conference, on a basis of four meetings a day, from 12 March to 5 April.

The Committee then agreed tentatively to recommend that the Conference be held in Geneva at that time, with a possible extension.

Following the preliminary consideration of cost estimates, which envisage costs of \$278,700 for a four-week Conference in Geneva, on a basis of four meetings a day (document A/CONF.35/PC/L.4/Add.1), the Committee discussed the question of the rules of procedure for the Conference, and requested that draft rules be prepared.

Mr. Mohammed (Nigeria) suggested that representatives of the specialized agencies and inter-governmental organizations also be invited to participate in the Conference, perhaps as observers.

Mr. Mirza (Pakistan), supporting the suggestion, said that non-governmental organizations might also be invited to participate.

The Chairman said that these points could be incorporated in the final formulation of the Committee's report.