Letter dated 10 April 1963 from the Co-Chairmen of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to the Secretary-General, transmitting the third interim progress report of the Conference

We have the honour to forward herewith, on behalf of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, a progress report to the Disarmament Commission and to the General Assembly. This report, covering the Conference's deliberations for the period 26 November 1962 to 10 April 1963, is transmitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1767 (XVII), its third interim progress report, which covers its deliberations on all questions before it for the period 26 November 1962 to 10 April 1963.

I. Organization of the Conference

Participants in the Conference

Representatives of the following States continued their participation in the work of the Committee: Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, India, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

Procedural arrangements

1. Upon the recommendation of the Co-Chairmen, the Conference reconvened at Geneva on 26 November 1962.

2. At its 92nd meeting on 14 December 1962, the Conference decided to recess from 21 December 1962 to 15 January 1963. Subsequently, the members of the Committee adopted the recommendation of the Co-Chairmen that it should reconvene on 1 February 1963.

3. Thirteen plenary meetings were held between 26 November and 20 December 1962.

4. Twenty-five plenary meetings were held from 12 February to 10 April 1963.
II. Nuclear test ban

The Committee considered the problem of a nuclear weapon test ban at a number of plenary meetings while it was in session between 26 November 1962 and 20 December 1962. In addition, six meetings of the Sub-Committee on a Treaty for the Discontinuance of Nuclear Weapon Tests, and a number of meetings of the representatives of the Soviet Union and the United States, in their capacity as Co-Chairmen, were held during this phase of the negotiations.

On 7 December 1962 a report was submitted to the General Assembly on the progress of these negotiations.2

When the Committee reconvened on 12 February 1963, it had the benefit of the exchange of letters between the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the President of the United States of America (ENDC/73 and ENDC/74).

Although there have been no meetings of the Sub-Committee on a Treaty for the Discontinuance of Nuclear Weapon Tests, since that time the Committee is continuing to devote a substantial proportion of its efforts to this problem. Accordingly, of the twenty-five plenary meetings held since reconvening on 12 February 1963, the Committee has devoted eighteen meetings, including one informal meeting, in whole or in part to the consideration of this question.

On 1 April 1963, at the 116th meeting, the United Kingdom and the United States submitted a “Memorandum of position concerning the cessation of nuclear weapon tests” (ENDC/78).

In addition to the plenary meetings, there were a number of meetings between the Co-Chairmen.

III. General and complete disarmament

The Committee has continued its consideration of general and complete disarmament and, in accordance with the agreed agenda (ENDC/1/Add. 3),3 stage I measures regarding nuclear weapon delivery vehicles and conventional armaments were discussed. These discussions gave primary consideration to a revised draft treaty on general and complete disarmament submitted by the USSR on 26 November 1962 (ENDC/2/Rev. 1 and Rev. 1/Corr.1),4 and to the outline of basic provisions of a treaty on general and complete disarmament in a peaceful world submitted by the United States on 18 April 1962 (ENDC/30 and Corr.1).5

On 10 December 1962, at the 90th meeting, the United States submitted a draft treaty article (article 5) for stage I, under “Reduction of armaments” (ENDC/69).

IV. Measures aimed at lessening international tension, consolidating confidence among States and facilitating general and complete disarmament

Although there have been no meetings of the Committee of the Whole, the Committee continued consideration in its plenary meetings of such measures as could be agreed on prior to and as would facilitate the achievement of general and complete disarmament.

On 12 December 1962, at the 91st meeting, the United States submitted a working paper on reduction of the risk of war through accident, miscalculation or failure of communication (ENDC/70). On 12 February 1963, at the 96th meeting, the USSR submitted a draft declaration on renunciation of the use of foreign territories for stationing strategic means of delivery of nuclear weapons (ENDC/75). On 20 February 1963, at the 100th meeting, the USSR submitted a draft non-agression pact between the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty and the States parties to the North Atlantic Treaty (ENDC/77).

V. Meetings of the Co-Chairmen

During the period covered by this report, the representatives of the United States of America and of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in their capacity as Co-Chairmen, have held numerous meetings. They discussed the schedule and procedure for the work of the Conference, general and complete disarmament, the cessation of nuclear weapon tests, and measures aimed at lessening international tension, consolidating confidence among States and facilitating general and complete disarmament.

VI. Conference documents

Transmitted herewith as annex 2 to this report is a list, for the period 26 November 1962 to 10 April 1963, of all Conference documents and of the verbatim records of the plenary meetings of the Committee and the meetings of the Sub-Committee on a Treaty for the Discontinuance of Nuclear Weapon Tests.

This report is submitted by the Co-Chairmen on behalf of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

10 April 1963

(Signed) S. K. Tsarapkin
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Charles C. Stelle
United States of America

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4 Also issued as document A/C.1/867; see Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 90.
5 See Official Records of the Disarmament Commission, Supplement for January 1961 to December 1962, document DC/203, annex 1, section E. For amendments submitted on 6 August 1962 (ENDC/30/Add.1) and 8 August 1962 (ENDC/30/Add.2), see ibid, document DC/205, annex 1, sections E and F.