Fourth interim progress report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament

1. The Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament transmits herein to the Disarmament Commission and to the General Assembly at its eighteenth session its fourth interim progress report, which covers its deliberations on all questions before it for the period 17 April to 1 September 1963.

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

I. Nuclear test ban

3. The Committee considered the problem of a nuclear weapon test ban at a number of plenary meetings while it was in session between 17 April and 21 June 1963.

4. On 10 June 1963, at the 142nd meeting, a memorandum on the question of the cessation of nuclear weapon tests was submitted by the delegations of Ethiopia, Nigeria and the United Arab Republic (ENDC/94).

5. A working paper containing a synopsis of suggestions made between 12 February and 10 June 1963 by the non-aligned members of the Committee concerning a treaty on the discontinuance of nuclear weapon tests was prepared by the secretariat and circulated on 19 June 1963 at the request of the delegation of Sweden (ENDC/96).

6. On 10 June 1963, it was announced that it had been agreed between Mr. Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Mr. Kennedy, President of the United States of America, and Mr. Macmillan, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, that the discussions on the cessation of nuclear weapon tests should resume in the middle of July in Moscow with the participation of the representatives of the three countries.

7. On 12 June 1963, at the 143rd meeting, the United States submitted excerpts from an address on peace delivered by the President of the United States in Washington on 10 June 1963, which included the announcement of the July discussions in Moscow (ENDC/95).

8. The Soviet Union submitted excerpts from an address by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, delivered in Berlin on 2 July 1963, in which he expressed the readiness of the Soviet Government to conclude an agreement banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water (ENDC/112).

9. As a result of the discussions held in Moscow between the representatives of the USSR, the United States and the United Kingdom, agreement was reached on the text of a treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water (ENDC/100/Rev.1), which was initialed on 25 July by Mr. Gromyko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Mr. Harriman, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of the United States, and Lord Halsbury, Lord President of the Council and Minister for Science and Technology of the United Kingdom.

10. On 30 July 1963, the United States submitted the text of an address delivered to the nation by the President of the United States on 26 July 1963 (ENDC/102), reporting on the Treaty.

11. On 30 July and 1 August 1963, at the 148th and 149th meetings, all the participants in the Conference expressed satisfaction with the results of the Moscow conference on a nuclear test ban, and with the aims proclaimed by the negotiating parties in the preamble to the Treaty.

12. The Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water was signed at Moscow on 5 August 1963 by Mr. Gromyko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Mr. Rusk, Secretary of State of the United States of America, and Lord Home, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom.

13. At the 150th meeting, on 12 August 1963, the representatives of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States paid tribute to the contribution made by the Conference to the successful conclusion of the Treaty, and a statement to this effect was included in the communiqué issued by the Conference at the conclusion of that meeting.

14. Members of the Committee noted with satisfaction the large number of States that had adhered to the Treaty or expressed their intention to do so.

II. General and complete disarmament

15. The Committee has continued consideration of general and complete disarmament and, in accordance with the agreed agenda (ENDC/1/Add.3), discussed measures of the first stage of a treaty on general and complete disarmament regarding: nuclear weapon delivery vehicles, conventional armaments, nuclear disarmament, and military bases and armed forces at such bases or elsewhere in foreign territories, together with appropriate control measures. These discussions continued to give primary consideration to a revised draft treaty on general and complete disarmament submitted by the Soviet Union on 26 November 1962 (ENDC/2/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1) and to the outline of basic provisions of a treaty on general and complete disarm...
ment in a peaceful world submitted by the United States on 18 April 1962 (ENDC/30 and Corr.1). 10

16. On 18 June 1963, the resolution on general disarmament adopted by the Summit Conference of Independent African States, held at Addis Ababa from 22 to 25 May 1963, was submitted by the delegations of Ethiopia, Nigeria and the United Arab Republic (ENDC/93/Rev.1).

17. On 14 August 1963, at the 151st meeting, the United States submitted an amendment, relating to nuclear disarmament in stage I, to its outline of basic provisions of a treaty on general and complete disarmament in a peaceful world (ENDC/30/Add.3). At the same meeting the United States also submitted draft treaty articles (articles 6 to 12) relating to nuclear disarmament measures in stage I (ENDC/109).


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

19. 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.

20. By agreement between the Governments of the United States and the Soviet Union, representatives of the two countries held a number of meetings, beginning on 6 May 1963, on the question of the establishment of a direct communications link between their Governments for use in time of emergency.

21. As a result of these negotiations, on 20 June 1963 representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America signed a memorandum of understanding regarding the establishment of a direct communications link between the two Governments for use in time of emergency (ENDC/97).

22. On 6 May 1963, at the 128th meeting, Brazil and Mexico submitted a declaration on the denuclearization of Latin America issued on 29 April 1963 by the Presidents of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico (ENDC/87). 11

23. On 27 May 1963, at the 137th meeting, the Soviet Union submitted the text of a note which it had presented to the Government of the United States of America on the demilitarization of the Mediterranean (ENDC/91 and Corr.1).

24. On 21 June 1963, at the 147th meeting, Mexico submitted a working paper for the Committee’s consideration containing a draft treaty prohibiting the placing in orbit and the stationing in outer space of nuclear weapons (ENDC/98).

25. The Soviet Union submitted excerpts from a statement made by Mr. Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, on 19 July 1963 in Moscow (ENDC/113), and answers given by Mr. Khrushchev, on 27 July 1963, to questions put to him by correspondents of Pravda and Izvestia, containing the proposals of the Soviet Union regarding measures for the lessening of international tension and facilitating general and complete disarmament (ENDC/103).

26. On 16 August 1963, at the 152nd meeting, Canada submitted a comparison of some significant developments in United States and USSR proposals made between 1958 and 1963 concerning the reduction of the risk of war through accident, miscalculation, failure of communications or surprise attack (ENDC/110).

IV. Meetings of the Co-Chairmen

27. 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 of 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.

V. Procedural arrangements

28. Thirty-six plenary meetings were held between 17 April and 1 September 1963.

29. At its 145th meeting, on 17 June 1963, the Conference decided to recess from 21 June to 30 July 1963.

30. At its 149th meeting, upon the recommendation of the Co-Chairmen, the Conference decided to recess from 2 August to 12 August 1963, in connexion with the signing of the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water.

31. At its 156th meeting, on 29 August 1963, the Conference agreed to a recess beginning 1 September 1963. The two Co-Chairmen were empowered to set, after consultation with the members of the Committee, a date for reconvening at Geneva no later than one week following the termination of the consideration of the items on the agenda of the eighteenth session of the General Assembly relating to nuclear testing and general and complete disarmament.

VI. Conference documents

32. Transmitted herewith as annex 2 to this report is a list for the period 17 April to 1 September 1963, of all Conference documents and of the verbatim records of the plenary meetings of the Committee.

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

29 August 1963

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

Charles C. STELLE
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10 See footnote 5.