

**CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE
ON DISARMAMENT**

ENDC/PV.149
1 August 1963
ENGLISH

FINAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 1 August 1963, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

Baron C.H. von PLATEN

(Sweden)

cdc.63-1079

PRESENT AT THE TABLE

Brazil:

Mr. J. de CASTRO
Mr. E. HOSANNAH
Mr. J. LENGUEL

Bulgaria:

Mr. K. LUKANOV
Mr. G. GUELEV
Mr. S. TEHOV
Mr. G. YANKOV

Burma:

U MAUNG MAUNG GYI

Canada:

Mr. E.L.M. BURNS
Mr. S.F. RAE
Mr. A.E. GOTLIEB
Mr. R.M. TAIT

Czechoslovakia:

Mr. L. SIMOVIC
Mr. M. ZEMLA
Mr. Z. SEINER
Mr. F. DOBLAS

Ethiopia:

Lij Mikael IMRU

India:

Mr. A.S. MEHTA

Italy:

Mr. F. CAVALLETTI
Mr. A. CAVAGLIERI
Mr. R. d'ORLANDI
Mr. P. TOZZOLI

PRESENT AT THE TABLE (cont'd)

Mexico:

Mr. L. PADILLA NERVO

Miss E. AGUIRRE

Mr. J. MERCADO

Nigeria:

Mr. L.C.N. OBI

Poland:

Mr. M. BLUSZTAJN

Mr. E. STANIEWSKI

Mr. R. KRZYZANOWSKI

Mrs. L. WOLSKA

Romania:

Mr. G. MACOVESCU

Mr. E. GLASER

Mr. N. ECOBESCU

Mr. O. NEDA

Sweden:

Baron C.H. von PLATEN

Mr. G. ZETTERQVIST

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

Mr. S.K. TSARAPKIN

Mr. A.A. ROSHCIN

Mr. S.A. BOGOMOLOV

Mr. V.A. SEMENOV

United Arab Republic:

Mr. A.F. HASSAN

Mr. M.S. AHMED

Mr. Ahmed OSMAN

Mr. M. KASSEM

United Kingdom:

Mr. Peter THOMAS

Sir Paul MASON

Mr. J.G. TAHOURDIN

Mr. J.M. EDDES

PRESENT AT THE TABLE (Cont'd)

United States of America:

Mr. C.C. STELLE
Mr. A.L. RICHARDS
Mr. A. AKALOVSKY
Mr. R.A. MARTIN

Special Representative of the
Secretary-General:

Mr. D. PROTITCH

Deputy Special Representative
of the Secretary-General:

Mr. W. EPSTEIN

The CHAIRMAN (Sweden): I declare open the 149th meeting of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

Lij Mikael IMRU (Ethiopia): I should like to take this opportunity to welcome sincerely the leaders of the Bulgarian and United Kingdom delegations. We are happy to see Mr. Peter Thomas and Mr. Lukanov participating for the first time in the work of this Conference. They will no doubt introduce a certain freshness into the subjects which we have been discussing here.

Mr. Joseph Godber will be affectionately remembered by participants in this Conference for his skill in debate and his efforts, especially, in the task of reaching a test ban agreement. We are cognizant of his encouragement in the last session, when the non-aligned delegations in this Conference attempted to devise -- unfortunately without success -- an acceptable common formula which might have bridged the gap which had developed between the positions of the nuclear Powers. We wish him success in his future undertakings -- in so far, of course, as his new assignment does not put too much of a strain on his professions of peace in the profession of war, because it is the measure of the man that he can take the strain in his stride.

I should like also to extend a warm welcome to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Protitch.

I come now to the happy task of welcoming, on behalf of the Ethiopian Government, the test ban treaty (ENDC/100) that has already been negotiated and initialled and will soon be signed by the Foreign Ministers of the nuclear Powers in Moscow. The test ban treaty, though not complete, is surely more important in what it includes than in what it leaves out. It impresses our delegation also in that its consequences, the change of direction which it indicates, and the influence it can have on future relations between the Powers, are even more significant. May this test ban treaty fulfil the hopes of mankind that it is the first stage which inaugurates a new era in the history of the world, that the arms race will be restrained and definitely reversed, that in a world racked with ideological conflict suspicions will diminish, that hate-mongering between peoples will be considered sterile and self-destructive, and that the leaders of the world will set their sights and exert their efforts to conquer the age-old enemies of mankind -- want, indignity and disease -- from which the great majority of the peoples of the world still suffer.

(Lij Imru, Ethiopia)

We should not, however, be complacent and underestimate the area which the treaty leaves out and the lingering uneasiness which the withdrawal clause engenders. It will be one of the tasks of this Conference to find ways to complete the treaty and make it universal and watertight. As it stands it reminds one uneasily of the wife of Lot. Representatives will no doubt remember the story of the destruction and overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, when Lot's wife looked behind her and became a pillar of salt. I have nothing against salt, for it savours; but we should travel forward with Lot, leaving behind us the spiritual devastation, the grief and the barren expenditure of huge amounts of the world's resources on the armaments race, rather than be tempted to linger with Lot's wife on an uncompleted journey.

Our task is clear, for if underground tests continue and are indulged in to excess, the moral force of the test ban treaty will be dissipated and the considerable hope which it has so rightly aroused will be lost. Let us hope, therefore, that the Moscow troika will come into harness and that will embrace more nations and yield further results.

We still have with us the problem of those who aspire to become nuclear Powers. The force of the example of the nuclear Powers which the signing of the present test ban treaty signifies must therefore be enhanced. Agreement on certain collateral measures, a realistic non-aggression pact between the two nuclear Power blocs, settlements in sensitive areas of possible conflict, and businesslike negotiations on the next steps to be undertaken in the pursuit of general and complete disarmament, will have a decisive influence on those who still consider that their security depends upon continuing along the road of nuclear armament.

The treaty has created an opportunity which must not be missed; it has introduced an atmosphere of improved relations that must not be dissipated. The Ethiopian delegation hopes that the pregnant moment will give birth to more settlements, and that the momentum which the treaty has set will not be allowed to slow down. We congratulate the Moscow negotiators on a job skilfully undertaken, and we look forward to the tasks ahead. Among those tasks we consider it important that the world's resources that are now misused on armaments should be rationally utilized to bridge the yawning gap between the prosperous and the poor nations; for it is idle to suppose that there will be lasting peace in our era if the leads of the world cannot

(Lij Imru, Ethiopia)

solve the urgent problem of accelerated economic development and the betterment of the lives of the peoples of the world. In the new perspective of the priorities which the conclusion of the treaty opens up, the better management of the world's resources is the cornerstone. It has been for long neglected, and must now be accorded its rightful place.

In conclusion I want to comment briefly on the work of the Eighteen-Nation Committee. In spite of the lack of progress at our meetings, we should take pride in the achievement of the partial test ban treaty, for this Conference has prepared with patience and laudable determination the soil for the sowing that has taken place. We must not only look forward to the harvest; we must also contribute to it. Those who considered our deliberations an exercise in futility should now realistically appraise the impact of this Conference and take their rightful places at the Conference table.

Mr. OBI (Nigeria): My delegation would like to express its deep satisfaction at the agreement recently reached in Moscow by the three nuclear Powers to ban the testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water. It is hardly necessary to point out that my delegation had for quite some time been convinced of the necessity for a high-level solution of this most ticklish and frustrating problem of the cessation of nuclear weapon tests, the solution of which had proved elusive. As long ago as December last year (ENDC/PV.90, p.13) the leader of my delegation, Mr. Ebu, called for the application of the "Cuban formula" in this regard. We are happy to note that the Moscow talks recently concluded were not "just talks" and that we were not faced yet again with missed opportunities.

We are particularly happy that the Moscow talks will, we trust, result in the considerable alleviation of the concern, universally and justifiably felt by mankind, about radioactive fall-out, et cetera. We are happy that years of arduous and sometimes frustrating negotiation have at last borne some fruit and that the great nuclear Powers have now been able to heed the remonstrations of humanity, which were first voiced by Prime Minister Nehru and by the Japanese Diet in 1954, and also at innumerable sessions of the United Nations General Assembly and in statements of my own Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. We should therefore like to offer to the three Powers concerned and to their most able representatives in Moscow our sincere congratulations.

(Mr. Obi, Nigeria)

It is the belief of my delegation that there is hardly any need to warn against undue complacency or any relaxation of efforts as a result of this agreement. We are happy to note that neither the great nuclear Powers nor, indeed, any delegation here appear to be in any such danger. This is as it should be, for, as Mr. Peter Thomas, the United Kingdom representative, rightly said at our last meeting:

"I hope too that we shall put this partial test ban treaty, welcome as it is, in its proper perspective. Clearly it will not in itself reduce armaments. Moreover, it may not necessarily prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. On the other hand, it could be a significant first step in those directions." (ENDC/PV.148, p. 16)

My delegation feels that one of the directions in which this partial test ban agreement should lead is to a comprehensive test ban. We trust, therefore, that the three nuclear Powers will continue to strive relentlessly towards that goal.

It is true that there is a gap between the positions of the two sides concerning tests underground, but we do not think that gap is unbridgeable given the appropriate good will and a constructive spirit of compromise. Moreover, the nuclear Powers now have a superabundance of ideas and suggestions, including the memorandum of the three African Powers (ENDC/94), which have yet to be explored to their fullest limits. Meanwhile we venture to hope that there will be reasonable restraints on underground testing, and that the present lull in underground blasts will not only continue but will be regularized soon in a formal comprehensive nuclear test ban.

Only a few weeks ago, at our last meeting before the recess, my delegation among others had occasion to congratulate the Soviet Union and the United States on reaching agreement (ENDC/97) on a direct communications link between Moscow and Washington for use in time of emergency. Now we are congratulating the three nuclear Powers on reaching an agreement, banning nuclear tests in certain environments, for which we could claim some credit. Those are the only agreements reached so far in the course of our sixteen-odd months here; but they are very significant and valuable agreements indeed, all things considered. In the view of my delegation perhaps their chief value, among others, lies in this: that the agreement on a

(Mr. Obi, Nigeria)

direct communications link was the first indication of life in the somewhat statuesque though imposing positions hitherto maintained by the two sides; and that the partial test ban is the first tentative step towards the experiment in international coexistence which my delegation has always advocated. For, as my Foreign Minister stressed in March 1962:

"We must persuade the two Power blocs to accept the principle of coexistence not only in theory but also in practice. Our world today without the United States and the Western Powers would be the poorer; similarly, our world without the Soviet Union and the Eastern Powers which they represent would be the poorer." (ENDC/PV.8, p.8)

My delegation hopes that the two sides will derive sufficient confidence from this first tentative step to make more vigorous strides towards our main goal of general and complete disarmament. The road may indeed prove long and arduous, and vigorous strides will indeed be necessary; but happily there are various steps on the way from which those concerned would derive confidence and encouragement -- I mean of course steps represented by a comprehensive test ban and various collateral measures. There are indeed various collateral measures which, taken either separately or jointly, would go a long way towards lessening international tension and facilitating our task here. My delegation has long since declared itself in favour, among other things, of a mutually-negotiated non-aggression pact between the two giant military groupings of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, measures to reduce the risks of war and to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and nuclear-free zones in various parts of the world. Above all, both in this Committee and in the General Assembly my delegation has called for a freezing of military expenditures and the utilization of the proceeds for peaceful and development purposes.

We have noted with great interest the recent statements by leaders of the two sides which seem to hold out hopes of much common ground in the field of collateral measures. It is the view of my delegation that these should be explored to their fullest limits in the course of this session, and that without further delay. We would therefore support the suggestion for a re-examination by the co-Chairmen of our agreed procedure and the more orderly organization of our work, especially as regards our discussion of collateral measures. My delegation would go even further and

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express the hope that the most valuable institution of our Committee -- the co-Chairmanship -- should be put to greater use; that the co-Chairmen should meet more frequently and regularly to ascertain and enlarge what common ground there is on the various collateral measures, and of course on other subjects, and inform the Committee of the progress made.

Before concluding, I should like to welcome the new United Kingdom representative, Mr. Peter Thomas, and the new representative of Bulgaria, Mr. Lukanov. We have no doubt that they will carry on the useful work of their predecessors, Mr. Godber and Mr. Christov -- two astute representatives whose wit and wisdom we shall all miss.

Mr. LUKANOV (Bulgaria) (translation from Russian): Allow me first of all to express to you, Mr. Chairman, and to all our colleagues, who the day before yesterday and today have welcomed me as the leader of the Bulgarian delegation, my deep gratitude, and to assure you that the Bulgarian delegation will co-operate, as always, for the successful fulfilment of the responsible tasks entrusted to us by the United Nations.

The Bulgarian delegation joins all those here who have welcomed the initialling of the treaty banning nuclear tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water. All advocates of mutual understanding between peoples and States, all advocates of peace, duly appreciate the efforts of the Governments of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States of America which have lead to the initialling and forthcoming signature of this treaty. We highly value the efforts of the delegations of the three great Powers represented here, which over a long period of time have prepared the way for the conclusion of this long-awaited treaty. We hope they will continue their efforts in the future with still greater success. The week that has passed since the day the treaty was initialled has shown that this event has gladdened the peoples of all continents, people of different political convictions, believers and atheists -- all who desire the relaxation and lessening of tension in the world and are anxious for the maintenance of peace. Once again it has become evident that this is the stand of the overwhelming majority of mankind, whose united efforts can lead to the establishment of lasting peace.

(Mr. Lukanov, Bulgaria)

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria considers that the initialling of the treaty on a partial cessation of nuclear tests is a success for the forces of peace throughout the world, a success for that policy of peaceful co-existence between States with different social systems, which is so ardently and persistently defended by the leader of the Soviet Government, Mr. Khrushchev. The usefulness of a treaty, albeit partial, for the cessation of nuclear tests is seen above all in the fact that it puts an end to that contamination of the atmosphere by radioactive substances which has represented something hitherto unprecedented in the history of mankind -- an attack on human life carried out by military weapons in peacetime. It is well known that even the most menacing of all the so-called conventional arms do not cause harm to the health of human beings or deprive them of life during tests at military testing grounds for purposes of study. Only nuclear weapons have lethal consequences when they are tested. The cessation of nuclear weapon tests can be considered a step towards the final elimination of these weapons.

Once again the possibility of mutual understanding between East and West in favour of peace has been demonstrated. Once again the "theoreticians", who for years have poisoned the minds of people in many Western countries by trying to prove that no questions of an international character can be settled by peaceful means with communist governments, have been proved wrong. Thanks to the signing of the Moscow treaty on the cessation of nuclear tests, favourable conditions are created for stopping the spread of nuclear weapons, thus reducing the risk of a thermonuclear war, which would obviously break out if an ever-increasing number of States possessed nuclear weapons. Now that the international atmosphere has improved, there are still more favourable opportunities for further agreements between East and West on the most important international questions on the settlement of which depends the maintenance of peace throughout the world. All this gives great political significance to the Moscow treaty.

(Mr. Lukanov, Bulgaria)

While resolutely supporting the agreement on the prohibition of nuclear tests, and expressing its readiness also to accept formal commitments in this regard, the People's Republic of Bulgaria also expresses the hope that all governments will accede to the Moscow treaty within the shortest possible time, so as to create the necessary conditions for passing on as soon as possible to the next steps aimed at eliminating the danger of war. It is clear to us that the treaty on a partial cessation of nuclear tests is only an initial step. However useful it may be, that treaty still does not mean a slowing-down of the arms race, as was pointed out by Mr. Khrushchev in his interview with the correspondents of Pravda and Izvestiya (ENDC/103) and by President Kennedy in his statement of 26 July 1963 (ENDC/102).

But the Bulgarian people and its leaders have never been and never will be maximalists in the struggle for peace, in the sense that they have never taken the stand of "all or nothing". Basing ourselves on that, we cannot agree with those who consider that, as the partial treaty initialled in Moscow is not a full guarantee against war, there is no point in approving it, or with those who assert that, if immediate disarmament cannot be achieved, there is no sense in striving for it and that one should arm as completely as possible and acquire one's own nuclear weapons at any cost. Our point of view is different. We consider that in the struggle for disarmament and the maintenance of peace it is necessary to show all the patience necessary in order to open the eyes of everyone and to unite all the forces for peace in an irresistible bloc -- that is, in an irresistible bloc capable of compelling even the enemies of peace to accept, even if not at once, general and complete disarmament under international control for the maintenance of peace on earth for all time.

The Bulgarian delegation availed itself of the recess in the work of our Committee which has just ended to inform our public opinion in greater detail of the results of the disarmament negotiations. In keeping with our custom of not passing over facts in silence and of calling a spade a spade, we reported to the Bulgarian people that the time-limit assigned to our Committee for the preparation of a draft treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict international control had long since come to an end, but the Committee's work had still made hardly any advance. Being well aware of the peace-loving efforts of all the

(Mr. Lukanov, Bulgaria)

socialist countries, the Bulgarian people are convinced that the reason for the slow progress of our negotiations in Geneva cannot have anything to do with the positions of the socialist States. This is borne out by many facts which show that, in the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, and to a considerable extent in the non-aligned States, in the six weeks during which our Committee was in recess there was particularly strong propaganda and practical activity aimed at improving the international situation.

Let us recall some of these facts. Thus, some countries of Northern Europe especially discussed the question of the maintenance of peace in north-east Europe, in the Baltic Sea region. At the same time, the representatives of the Balkan States came together in Bucharest to discuss how best to ensure mutual understanding in that part of Europe which in the past was called the powder-keg of Europe, how to bring about the declaration of this region as an atom-free zone, and how best to support the Soviet initiative to rid the area of the Mediterranean Sea of nuclear weapons and bases, including mobile bases. At the same time, the representatives of many African countries stressed once again their desire to see their peoples freed from all vestiges of the colonial system and from all neo-colonialism, and to guarantee atomic neutrality for the African continent. At that same time, women representing more than 110 peoples gathered together in Moscow to express the longing of all mothers, wives and sisters to see mankind freed from the threat of another world war.

During those six weeks Mr. Khrushchev, in several exceedingly important statements, made new specific and realistic proposals to the Western countries aimed not only at further improving the international climate but also at the practical normalization of the world situation through the removal of unresolved questions and the implementation of measures which would make the sudden outbreak of a new world conflict impossible.

(Mr. Lukanov, Bulgaria)

In view of these circumstances, we must state that the conditions for the work of the Eighteen-Nation Committee are now much better than they were at the start of its work. In addition to the agreed principles of general and complete disarmament, the participation in our Committee of representatives of eight non-aligned States from various continents, the detailed Soviet draft treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict international control (ENDC/2/Rev.1), a treaty which in our opinion is irreproachable in its form, content and clearness of purpose -- in addition to these favourable conditions, in which the Eighteen-Nation Committee began its work more than a year ago, there are now the new proposals of the socialist States concerning measures the discussion of which can be started immediately in the interests of peace, as well as the agreement reached in Moscow on the cessation of nuclear tests in three environments. We believe that all this will give a new impetus to our work and speed up its progress so as to fulfil the imperative demand of the peoples, expressed in the United Nations Charter, that there should be no more war on earth.

The Bulgarian people, and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria implementing the will of its people, have sent their delegation this time with categorical instructions to exert every effort, modest though it may be, to achieve a successful solution of this vital problem. We have always considered that there is no better means of eliminating the danger of war than doing away with the physical possibility of waging war through the achievement of general and complete disarmament under strict international control. We have always considered that there is no better means of creating confidence among States than the assurance that your neighbour cannot cause you any military harm, for the simple reason that he does not possess the means of doing so, because he is disarmed.

The conditions in which we are resuming our work compel us, in our opinion, in addition to preparing a draft treaty on general and complete disarmament, to deal with the discussion and adoption in principle of the following proposals by Mr. Khrushchev: the proposal for the conclusion of a non-aggression pact between the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty and the States parties to the North Atlantic Treaty (ENDC/77); the proposal for the reduction of the armed forces of the United States and the Soviet Union respectively in the Federal Republic of Germany and in the German Democratic Republic; the proposal that the Soviet Union and the United

(Mr. Lukanov, Bulgaria)

States of America should exchange military missions to be assigned to their armed forces stationed in the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany respectively; the proposal to freeze or reduce the military budgets of States; and the proposal for observation posts in places where it would be possible to concentrate armed forces for carrying out a surprise attack. It is self-evident that the Bulgarian delegation is particularly interested in the discussion of proposals for atom-free zones, bearing in mind specifically the proposal made some years ago for an atom-free zone in the region of the Balkans and the Adriatic Sea, and now the proposal for the denuclearization of the whole region of the Mediterranean Sea (ENDC/91, p.6). We appeal to all representatives to adopt such an agenda for our future work.

I have stated and briefly substantiated the main principles of my Government's declaration of 27 July 1963 in connexion with the Moscow treaty on the cessation of nuclear tests. I shall conclude with the following quotation from that declaration:

"The Bulgarian Government is willing to participate in this treaty and hopes that it will come into force in the very near future". (ENDC/108, p.2)

Mr. de CASTRO (Brazil) (translation from French): I should like to take up a few moments of this meeting to make a very brief statement.

It is with the deepest and most heartfelt satisfaction that I have the honour to inform the members of this Committee that the Brazilian Government has just decided officially to sign the treaty initialled in Moscow on the cessation of nuclear tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water. This decision of my Government's is merely the formal consecration of the attitudes and positions which my country has always taken up with regard to this grave problem of nuclear tests. The communication which I have the honour to impart to you today expresses my country's constant desire to make its modest contribution in full awareness of the importance of this treaty for the survival of mankind. In adopting this attitude, Brazil considers it is accomplishing the very least of its obligations in view of the supreme importance of the survival of mankind; and it is optimistic enough to hope that all the countries of the world will accede to this treaty in the interests of the human community.

(Mr. de Castro, Brazil)

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the members of our Committee on Disarmament, and in particular the representatives of the three Powers which met in Moscow, for the statements they have made in our Committee clearly and distinctly showing a spirit of cordiality and mutual understanding, which I consider an essential condition for the success of the negotiations. We should all be delighted and full of hope on perceiving that there has been a complete change of climate, the hard winter of the cold war having been replaced by the warmth of constructive co-existence. We should take advantage of this warmth to build the true edifice of peace which will support our hopes for the future of mankind.

I also take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Peter Thomas, the United Kingdom representative, Mr. Lukanov, the Bulgarian representative, and Mr. Protitch, the special representative of the Secretary-General.

The CHAIRMAN (Sweden): I should like to inform the Committee that I have been approached by the two co-Chairmen with the suggestion that our work should be suspended next week during the Foreign Ministers' Conference in Moscow, and that we should meet again on Monday, 12 August. Are there any comments on this suggestion?

Mr. BURNS (Canada): Of course, everybody is very happy to learn that the test ban treaty is to be signed in Moscow early next week, and I think all of us are happy also that there should be a brief recess of this Conference to enable our co-Chairmen, Mr. Tsarapkin and Mr. Stelle, to be present at that signing. We all realize how long they have been labouring in this vineyard, so to speak, and we are glad that they should be present at what might perhaps be called the vintage.

It might have been a little difficult to understand this suggestion in the light of the indications by delegations which have spoken so far that we should strike while the iron is hot and carry on our work here with energy. Nevertheless, we do think and hope that, as the two co-Chairmen are to go to Moscow and will have access to the Foreign Ministers and other high officials of their two countries, as well as to the Foreign Secretary and officials of the United Kingdom, they might at that time be able to consult together and prepare firm proposals to put to the Conference when we re-assemble on 12 August.

(Mr. Burns, Canada)

We shall not have very much time left then before we break up again for the General Assembly -- as it seems to be generally accepted we should do --, and if we are to make progress the first essential is to know what we are going to talk about and on what we are going to negotiate. The Canadian delegation feels that our task would be facilitated if our co-Chairmen were to devote some time when in Moscow to consultations together in order to have an agenda to put before us.

We would close by wishing the co-Chairmen an enjoyable trip which will not be all hard work.

The CHAIRMAN (Sweden): There appear to be no further statements or comments. That being so, I am ~~not sure~~ how to interpret the silence. If I misinterpret it, I hope the Committee will understand that I am speaking on my own behalf in saying a few words on this suggestion.

I believe we have not always felt that politics and politicians were helpful to our work. The Conference has witnessed periods of stress and frustration when we, as a body, have nevertheless tried not to lose hope of continuing useful work and even of influencing politicians to make greater and more serious efforts in the field of disarmament. The very existence and composition of this Conference is a guarantee and implies a duty for us to swim -- if necessary alone. In this instance, however, we may safely assume that serious, honest and useful efforts will be made in Moscow by the Foreign Ministers of the three great Powers in connexion with the signing of the treaty.

Thus a short break in our work, in the circumstances referred to by the co-Chairmen, may be not only acceptable but advisable. Speaking on behalf of the Swedish delegation, I support the suggestion of a recess during next week. I join with the Canadian representative in wishing the co-Chairmen bon voyage and hope that we shall be able to welcome them back with practical and positive suggestions for our future agenda.

If there are no further comments, I take it that we agree with the suggestion submitted to us by the co-Chairmen, and that we shall meet again on Monday, 12 August.

The Conference decided to issue the following communique:

"The Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament today held its one hundred and forty-ninth plenary meeting in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the chairmanship of Baron von Flaten, representative of Sweden.

"Statements were made by the representatives of Ethiopia, Nigeria, Bulgaria, Brazil, Canada and Sweden.

"The next meeting of the Conference will be held on Monday, 12 August 1963, at 10.30 a.m."

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.