

U N I T E D N A T I O N S

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

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

Press Release SG/A/43
16 February 1967

SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS CONSULTANT EXPERTS
ON EFFECTS OF POSSIBLE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Group to Meet in Geneva from 6 to 10 March

The Secretary-General, U Thant, announced today the appointment of 12 consultant experts to assist him in the preparation of a report on the effects of the possible use of nuclear weapons and on the security and economic implications for States of the acquisition and further development of these weapons.

The 12 consultant experts will hold their first series of meetings in Geneva from 6 to 10 March.

They are:

Wilhelm Billig (Poland)

Takashi Mukaibo (Japan)

Nabor Carrillo (Mexico)

H.M.A. Onitiri (Nigeria)

Vasily S. Emelyanov (Soviet Union)

John G. Palfrey (United States)

Martin Fehrm (Sweden)

Gunnar Randers (Norway)

Bertrand Goldschmidt (France)

Vikram A. Sarabhai (India)

Wilfrid B. Lewis (Canada)

Sir Solly Zuckerman (United Kingdom)

In the Introduction to his Report to the Twenty-First Session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General expressed the belief "that the time has come for an appropriate body of the United Nations to explore and weigh the impact and implications of all aspects of nuclear weapons, including problems of a military, political, economic and social nature relating to the manufacture, acquisition, deployment and development of these weapons and their possible use".

U Thant added: "To know the true nature of the danger we face may be a most important first step towards averting it."

(more)

Subsequently the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the report of the First Committee under the item on the question of general and complete disarmament at its 1484th plenary meeting on 5 December 1966 (document A/RES/2162 A (XXI)).

By this resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a concise report on the effects of the possible use of nuclear weapons and on the security and economic implications for States of the acquisition and further development of these weapons, and recommended that the report be based on accessible material and prepared with the assistance of qualified consultant experts appointed by the Secretary-General.

The General Assembly also requested that the report be published and transmitted to the Governments of Member States in time to permit its consideration at the twenty-second session of the General Assembly and recommended that the Governments of all Member States give the report wide distribution in their respective languages, through various media of communication, so as to acquaint public opinion with its contents.

* *** *