

CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE
ON DISARMAMENT

ENDC/PV.380
14 March 1968
ENGLISH

FINAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTIETH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 14 March 1968, at 4 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. P. WINKLER

(Czechoslovakia)

PRESENT AT THE TABLE

Brazil:

Mr. J. A. de ARAUJO CASTRO
Mr. C. A. de SOUZA e SILVA
Mr. A. da COSTA GUIMARAES
Mr. O. MUNIZ OLIVA

Bulgaria:

Mr. K. CHRISTOV
Mr. B. KONSTANTINOV

Burma:

U KYAW MIN

Canada:

Mr. E. L. M. BURNS
Mr. A. G. CAMPBELL
Mr. J. R. MORDEN
Mr. A. BERNIER

Czechoslovakia:

Mr. P. WINKLER
Mr. T. LAHODA
Mr. V. VAJNAR

Ethiopia:

Mr. A. ZELLEKE
Mr. B. ASSFAW

India:

Mr. M. A. HUSAIN
Mr. K. P. JAIN

Italy:

Mr. R. CARACCIOLO
Mr. G. P. TOZZOLI
Mr. E. FRANCO
Mr. R. BERLENGHI

Mexico:

Mr. A. GOMEZ ROBLEDO
Mr. A. CARRANCO AVILA

Nigeria:

Alhaji SULE KOLO
Mr. B. O. TONWE

Poland:

Mr. M. BLUSZTAJN
Mr. E. STANIEWSKI
Mr. S. DABROWA

Romania:

Mr. N. ECOBESCO
Mr. O. IONESCO
Mr. C. GEORGESCO
Mr. A. COROIANU

Sweden:

Mrs. A. MYRDAL
Mr. A. EDELSTAM
Mr. R. BOMAN

Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics:

Mr. A. A. ROSHCIN
Mr. O. A. GRINEVSKY
Mr. V. V. SHUSTOV
Mr. V. B. TOULINOV

United Arab Republic:

Mr. H. KHALLAF
Mr. O. SIRRY
Mr. M. SHAKER

United Kingdom:

Mr. I. F. PORTER
Mr. R. I. T. CROMARTIE

United States of America:

Mr. W. C. FOSTER
Mr. S. DePALMA
Mr. L. D. WEILER
Mr. C. G. BREAM

Special Representative of the
Secretary-General:

Mr. D. PROTITCH

1. The CHAIRMAN (Czechoslovakia): I declare open the 380th plenary meeting of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament.
2. Mr. FOSTER (United States of America): By working very hard and conscientiously the Committee has been able to conclude its deliberations, and we are about to agree upon a report to the General Assembly of the United Nations within the tight deadline set by General Assembly resolution 2346A (XXII) (ENDC/210).
3. Many views have been expressed during our meetings on the draft non-proliferation treaty. Our discussion of differing points of view has greatly helped to clarify many aspects of the treaty. Our discussion has been notable also for the fact that, where there have been differences, our proceedings have nevertheless always been conducted in a constructive, dignified atmosphere. For my part I wish to express my appreciation, and the appreciation of the entire United States delegation, for the pleasant personal relationships that have existed throughout this session, both in the plenary meetings of the Conference and in the equally important informal discussions and contacts among delegations.
4. These pleasant personal relationships have made it possible for us to harmonize our views on the final report in the course of informal discussions. I am therefore pleased to be able to place before the Committee, on behalf of both co-Chairmen, a report designed to satisfy the basic concerns of all delegations (ENDC/225). This result could not have been achieved without the co-operation and assistance of each delegation.
5. Mr. Chairman, may I take this opportunity as one of the co-Chairmen to express the appreciation of all delegations to Dr. Protitch, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and to every one of his colleagues for all the help that they have given to us? We sometimes take for granted the services that are rendered by the Secretariat, including the interpreters and the translators. It is perhaps a measure of how important the United Nations has become that we tend to take this essential assistance for granted. I know that the Committee joins me in extending to all of the Secretariat its appreciation for their devotion to their task.
6. Finally, I would like to make a brief personal observation in my capacity as the United States representative. We have completed a very important, arduous session; but we have achieved something very real and very important. The report we are about to submit is the most important report yet submitted by this Conference. Because of the report we are submitting today, the General Assembly of the United Nations will be

(Mr. Foster, United States)

called back into session. I feel confident that, following the General Assembly session, a non-proliferation treaty will be opened for signature and the world will take a further step towards nuclear sanity and peace.

7. To all my colleagues around this table I wish to express my appreciation and my best wishes.

8. Mr. KHALLAF (United Arab Republic) (translation from French): Now that the present session of our Committee is coming to an end, we cannot help feeling a sense of satisfaction at its results, which are manifested above all in the determination expressed by all member countries to work unremittingly and speedily to prevent any proliferation of nuclear weapons, as reflected in the revised draft treaty submitted on 11 March (ENDC/224, Annex A). It is true that that draft does not respond favourably to certain remarks made by my delegation and that there was not enough time to comment on it in our Committee; nevertheless, it remains true that even a superficial study of the draft is sufficient to show that it represents an important step forward and constitutes, we are convinced, a sound and solid basis for the discussions of the forthcoming session of the General Assembly. We hope that these discussions will soon yield results and that mankind will thus enjoy the benefits of the treaty as soon as possible.

9. It is clear that these results of our work have only been achieved through the spirit of understanding and co-operation that has inspired all of us, and through the unrelenting efforts of our co-Chairmen and the clarifications which they have given us concerning the draft treaty. I hope they will accept this expression of our heartfelt gratitude.

10. We should also like to thank Mr. Protitch, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and all the members of the Secretariat for their devotion to our work.

11. The CHAIRMAN (Czechoslovakia): The Committee has before it the draft report (ENDC/225) just introduced on behalf of the two co-Chairmen by the representative of the United States. If there are no comments, I shall take it that the draft report is adopted.

It was so decided.

12. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translation from Russian): Today we are holding the last meeting of an important and decisive session of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament. The main task of this session has been to find a solution to the problem of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and to draft

(Mr. Roshchin, USSR)

an appropriate treaty on this subject. It is therefore no coincidence that the Committee has concentrated its efforts precisely on the solution of this problem, since the question of erecting a barrier against the further spread of nuclear weapons occupies at the present time one of the most important places on the agenda of international life.

13. There is no need to mention the importance of the problem of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Its importance has become only too obvious to all the countries and peoples of the world. Its solution would be an immense contribution to the cause of international peace and security, to progress towards the cessation of the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, and towards disarmament. We should merely like to emphasize that the conclusion of a non-proliferation treaty would be a further important step along that road. A non-proliferation treaty should strengthen the confidence of the peoples that there is a possibility of achieving positive results in such a complicated field as that of nuclear disarmament.

14. When the Committee resumed its work on 18 January, it had before it the instruction of the United Nations General Assembly (resolution 2346 A (XXII); ENDC/210) to submit to it on or before 15 March a full report on the negotiations regarding a draft treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, together with the pertinent documents and records. The Soviet delegation deems it necessary to emphasize that during this session of the Committee a great deal of work has been done which has enabled us to submit the report to the United Nations General Assembly in good time. This report (ENDC/225) is the summarized result of the complicated and lengthy negotiations carried on within our Committee and outside it for the purpose of preparing a draft treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

15. This draft (*ibid.*, Annex A), based on the identical draft treaties submitted by the Soviet Union and the United States and including a considerable number of amendments and additions proposed by various States, is annexed to the Committee's full report. Simultaneously with the report, the General Assembly will receive voluminous documentary material fully reflecting the points of view of the various countries on the draft treaty and the extent to which these countries have supported the draft treaty or have differed in their opinions regarding it. We regard it as highly important that, together with the report of the Eighteen-Nation Committee, the General Assembly will receive a document concerning security assurances for the non-nuclear States. I have in mind the draft resolution of the United Nations Security Council which was submitted by the delegations of the USSR, the United States and the United Kingdom on 7 March (ENDC/222).

(Mr. Roshchin, USSR)

16. The Soviet delegation considers that the full report of the Eighteen-Nation Committee to the United Nations General Assembly will give the participants in the Assembly a good basis for a fruitful discussion on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The report of the Eighteen-Nation Committee and the documents annexed to it --- in the first place, of course, the draft treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons -- will contribute to the successful work of the General Assembly.

17. For nearly ten years now the General Assembly has been closely considering the question of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. As early as 1961 States Members of the United Nations responded promptly to the appeal of the non-nuclear States, embodied in the so-called Irish resolution (1665(XVI)), to reach agreement on putting an end to the further spread of nuclear weapons. From then onwards the General Assembly has adopted resolutions on this subject each year. Foremost among them are the resolutions of the last three General Assembly sessions, which proved to be an important prerequisite for the result we have achieved today.

18. It seems to us that when the participants in the resumed twenty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly have received the Eighteen-Nation Committee's report and survey the road covered in the negotiations on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, they will be able to evaluate at its true worth the indisputable fact which shows that on the path towards a non-proliferation agreement substantial and, I would say, fundamental difficulties have been overcome. The States now have every opportunity to conclude a non-proliferation agreement.

19. The Soviet delegation is gratified to note that many members of the Committee, in analyzing the draft non-proliferation treaty which has now made its appearance, have expressed their satisfaction with the document, regarding it as the fruit of the collective efforts of many States over a long period of time.

20. Now that the Eighteen-Nation Committee is completing -- or rather, has completed -- its work on the draft treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and that its full report is being submitted to the United Nations General Assembly, all States interested in the strengthening of peace should unite their efforts still further so that 1968 may become the year of the conclusion of the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union, for its part, will do everything for the speediest possible conclusion of such a treaty.

(Mr. Roshchin, USSR)

21. Lastly, Mr. Chairman, allow me, on behalf of a number of delegations and also as one of the co-Chairmen of the Committee, to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to the members of the United Nations Secretariat, headed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Protitch, for the great help they have given us in the process of the work on the draft treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The voluminous and highly-skilled work of the interpreters, translators, verbatim reporters and other members of the United Nations Secretariat has enabled us to carry out in time the General Assembly's recommendation and to submit to it the full report of our Committee.

22. I should also like to express my very best wishes to all members of the Committee who have co-operated in the accomplishment of the important mission entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly and by many States and governments of the world.

23. The CHAIRMAN (Czechoslovakia): As we are now about to terminate this important session of our Conference, allow me to say a few words as today's Chairman. I think I speak on behalf of the whole Committee when I express deep appreciation for all the work and efforts of our two co-Chairmen. I think I may on behalf of the Committee express our thanks to both of them. They have already said how substantially the deliberations of our Committee have throughout been facilitated by the distinguished and outstanding work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Protitch, his Deputy, Mr. Epstein, all the other members of the Secretariat and all the personnel servicing our Conference. I think there is nothing more to add to the appreciation already expressed by our two co-Chairmen. I should like again, on behalf of the whole Committee, to extend our thanks to Mr. Protitch and ask him to convey our thanks to all his colleagues and to all the members of the Secretariat.

The Conference decided to issue the following communiqué:

"The Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament today held its 380th plenary meeting in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador P. Winkler, representative of Czechoslovakia.

"Statements were made by the representatives of the United States, the United Arab Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Chairman.

"The Committee adopted its report to the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Disarmament Commission (ENDC/225).

"The next meeting of the Conference will be held this summer at a date to be established by the co-Chairmen in consultation with all members."

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.