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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS OF
USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO
BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS

Note verbale dated 18 June 1981 from the Permanent Representative of
Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to General Assembly resolution 35/153 of 12 December 1980 concerning the United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, has the honour to communicate the following:

The Government of Ireland, having signed on 10 April 1981 the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, 1/ avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate its conviction, first stated by the Permanent Representative of Ireland at the 4th plenary meeting of the first session of the Conference, on 14 September 1979, that the establishment of a consultative committee of experts would help ensure continuing respect for the Convention and its annexed Protocols.

Ireland believes that international agreements which for humanitarian reasons control the use of specific weapons can more reliably fulfil their purpose, enhance public and intergovernmental confidence in their provisions and attract more widespread adherence if they are seen to be effective and fully implemented. A mechanism to guarantee these important considerations would, in the view of the Government of Ireland, contribute to a climate of international confidence which would facilitate further progress in disarmament and international humanitarian law.

* A/36/50.

1/ A/CONF.95/15 and Corr.2, annex I, appendix A.

Because the Government of Ireland remained convinced that a consultative committee would help ensure continuing respect for the agreements reached at the Conference as well as enhance their effectiveness and add to their credibility, Ireland, together with the Federal Republic of Germany and others, put forward at an early stage in the second session of the Conference specific proposals for the establishment of such a mechanism (see A/CONF.95/L.7).

In his remarks at its final plenary meeting, on 10 October 1980, the Permanent Representative of Ireland regretted that agreement could not be reached at that time on the establishment of a consultative committee of experts. He again stated the belief of the Government of Ireland that this remained an important proposal on which it was hoped that others would reflect with a view to having it agreed at the first conference on review and amendment to be held under the provisions of article 8 of the Convention.

It is, therefore, the intention of the Government of Ireland to continue, and to support, efforts for the establishment of appropriate means which will provide for consultation, co-operation and adequate procedures for ensuring compliance with the Convention and its Protocols. In the meantime the Government of Ireland hopes that the Convention will enter into force as soon as possible, be fully observed by all parties and, in the near future, be adhered to by all States.

The Permanent Representative of Ireland requests the Secretary-General to circulate this note as a document of the General Assembly under item 52 of the preliminary list.
