

CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

CCD/PV.788

9 May 1978

ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE SEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 9 May 1978, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. A.J. Meerburg

(Netherlands)

PRESENT AT THE TABLE

<u>Argentina:</u>	Mr. A. HOLTENI
<u>Brazil:</u>	Mr. I. MASTROGIOVANNI
<u>Bulgaria:</u>	Mr. P. VOUTOV Mr. G. GAVRILOV Mr. I. PETROV
<u>Burma:</u>	U KYEE MYINT
<u>Canada:</u>	Mr. J.T. SIMARD
<u>Czechoslovakia:</u>	Mr. E. ZÁPOTOCKÝ Mr. V. ROHÁČEK
<u>Egypt:</u>	Mr. T. DINANA
<u>Ethiopia:</u>	Mr. T. TERREFE
<u>German Democratic Republic:</u>	Mr. G. HERDER Mr. M. GRACZYNSKI Mr. H. RAKAU
<u>Germany, Federal Republic of:</u>	Mr. G. PREIFER Mr. H. HUIJER
<u>Hungary:</u>	Mr. M. DOMOKOS Mr. E. SEBOK Mr. I. KORMENDY
<u>India:</u>	Mr. C.R. GHAREKHAN Mr. S.T. DEVARE
<u>Iran:</u>	Mr. M. FARTASH Mr. D. CHILATY
<u>Italy:</u>	Mr. N. DI BERNARDO Mr. M. MORENO Mr. C. FRATESCHI

<u>Japan:</u>	Mr. M. OGISO
	Mr. T. SAWAI
	Mr. Y. NAKAMURA
<u>Mexico:</u>	Mr. A. GARCÍA ROBLES
	Mr. N. MARIN
<u>Mongolia:</u>	Mr. N. ERDEMBILEG
	Mr. L. BAYART
<u>Morocco:</u>	Mr. S.H. RAHHALI
<u>Netherlands:</u>	Mr. A.J. MEERBURG
<u>Nigeria:</u>	Mr. S.T. ADAMU
<u>Pakistan:</u>	Mr. K. SALEEM
<u>Peru:</u>	Mr. L. CHAVEZ-GODOY
<u>Poland:</u>	Mr. E. WYZNER
	Mr. H. PAĆ
	Mr. M. KRUCZYK
<u>Romania:</u>	Mr. C. ENE
	Mr. G. TINCA
<u>Sweden:</u>	Mr. G. HAMILTON
	Mr. L. NORBERG
<u>Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:</u>	Mr. V.I. LIKHATCHEV
	Mr. L.A. NAUMOV
	Mr. Y.V. KOSTENKO
	Mr. E.D. ZAITSEV
<u>United Kingdom:</u>	Mr. D.R. ASHE
	Mr. N. MARSHALL
	Mr. C.K. CURWEN
	Mr. I.R. KENYON

United States of America:

Mr. A.S. FISHER

Mrs. ARENSBURGER

Mr. B. MURRAY

Yugoslavia:

Mr. D. DJOKIC

Zaire:

Mr. MULONGANDUSU ESUK

Special Representative of the
Secretary-General:

Mr. Risto HYVÄRINEN

Alternate Representative of the
Secretary-General:

Ms. Amada SEGARRA

Communiqué of the meeting

The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament today held its 788th plenary meeting at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the chairmanship of Mr. A. Meerburg, representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (H.E. Ambassador V.I. Likhatchev), speaking on behalf of the delegations of the United States of America and the Soviet Union, made a statement on the progress in the bilateral talks which had been conducted since August 1976 for the purpose of developing a joint initiative on the prohibition of chemical weapons to be introduced in the Committee on Disarmament.

The sides believe that the future convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons should meet the objective of complete, effective and verifiable prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons, as well as provide for the destruction of chemical weapons.

Agreement in principle has been achieved on a number of questions in the area of the scope of the prohibition, procedures of declaring stocks of chemical weapons, measures to verify the obligations assumed under the future convention and others. Some questions, in particular those in the area of verification, require further negotiations.

The Soviet Union and the United States attach great significance to the conclusion of a convention and will continue their best efforts to complete the bilateral negotiations on this important and extremely complex problem as soon as possible.

The Committee adopted the draft report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to Discuss and Elaborate a Comprehensive Programme for Disarmament.

The next plenary meeting of the Conference will be held on Thursday, 11 May 1978, at 10.30 a.m.

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Mr. LIKHATCHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): The distinguished members of the Committee on Disarmament are well aware that the delegations of the USSR and the United States are conducting negotiations on the elaboration of a joint initiative on the prohibition of chemical weapons for submission to the Committee. Today I have the honour to announce on behalf of the two delegations, a joint USSR-United States statement to the Committee on Disarmament on the state of those negotiations.

In its resolution 32/77 of 12 December 1977 on the prohibition of chemical weapons, the United Nations General Assembly stressed the need for early submission of the joint initiative of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in order to assist it in achieving early agreement on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction. The United States and the Soviet Union recognize that this resolution reflects the desire of the international community to achieve such an agreement, and that this task is a high priority item of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

Along with the work that has been done on this problem in the Committee on Disarmament, the United States and the Soviet Union have, since August 1976, conducted bilateral negotiations with a view to developing a joint initiative on the prohibition of chemical weapons and submitting it to the Committee on Disarmament. On 10 January 1978, the seventh round of bilateral negotiations began in Geneva, and is continuing. The negotiations have been conducted intensively, the delegations of the two countries having held numerous plenary and drafting group meetings.

The United States and the Soviet Union believe that the future convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons should meet the objective of complete, effective, and verifiable prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons, and also provide for the destruction of chemical weapons. Discussions of measures relating to means of production of chemical munitions and chemicals covered by the convention are continuing.

Progress has been achieved in the area of the scope of the prohibition. As a result of accommodation by both sides, agreement in principle has now emerged on most, although not all, points in this area. Both sides share the opinion of the majority of CCD members that the principal criterion in determining the scope of the prohibition should be the general purpose criterion.

(Mr. Likhatchev, USSR)

Under that criterion, specific chemicals would be prohibited to the extent they have no justification for industrial research or other non-hostile civilian purposes, for non-hostile military purposes, in particular for protective purposes, or for military purposes not related to chemical warfare. Both sides have also reached the view that, for the purpose of facilitating verification, it would be appropriate to use two toxicity criteria and certain other provisions in addition to the general purpose criterion.

The United States and the Soviet Union are in agreement that the convention should contain provisions clearly specifying the procedure for declaring chemical weapons stockpiles. Some specific provisions of such a procedure have been agreed upon in principle. Both sides agree that States parties to the future convention should also make declarations relating to the means of production of chemical munitions and chemicals covered by the convention, but the actual content of such declarations is under continued negotiation. Provisions relating to measures concerning those means of production also require further negotiation.

The United States and the Soviet Union believe that the fulfilment of the obligations assumed under the future convention should be subject to the important requirement of adequate verification. They share the view that arrangements for such verification should be based on a combination of national and international arrangements, including the creation of a consultative committee. Some arrangements and procedures have been agreed upon in this area, but no agreement has yet been reached on certain important issues, including specific methods of verifying the destruction of chemical weapon stocks and measures relating to means of production of chemical munitions and chemicals covered by the convention.

The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament is aware of the complexity of the issues involved in developing an adequately verifiable disarmament measure which is designed to eliminate an entire class of weapons from the arsenals of States and which also affects one of the major industries in many countries. It will also understand that any attempt to describe in greater detail the problems remaining at this stage could complicate bilateral efforts to resolve them.

The United States and the Soviet Union are aware of the great importance that the members of the United Nations General Assembly and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament attach to the earliest possible conclusion of a convention, and will continue their best efforts to complete the bilateral negotiations on this important and extremely complex problem as soon as possible.

The CHAIRMAN: The draft report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to Discuss and Elaborate a Comprehensive Programme for Disarmament was distributed to the Committee at the last plenary meeting. I would like to ask if there are any comments on or objections to this report before it is adopted by the Committee.

I see none, the draft report is adopted.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.