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CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT: SUMMER SESSION

SUMMARY

1. THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT IS DUE TO FINISH ITS SUMMER SESSION TODAY. IT HAS REGISTERED REMARKABLE PROGRESS ON SOME AREAS OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION BUT NOT ON CHALLENGE INSPECTION. LITTLE PROGRESS ON OTHER ISSUES AND A DIFFICULT ATMOSPHERE AT THE END OF THE SESSION, ESPECIALLY ON TEST BAN.

DETAIL

CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW)

2. THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS ADOPTED ON 22 AUGUST REGISTERS PROGRESS MADE SINCE FEBRUARY ON THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT CONVENTION. IT NOW INCLUDES AS A RESULT OF THE SUMMER SESSION NEW TEXTS FOR ARTICLES IV, V AND VI ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS (DESTRUCTION), CHEMICAL WEAPONS PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES NOT PROHIBITED BY THE CONVENTION RESPECTIVELY. THE NEW TEXT OF ARTICLE VI, BASED ON UK IDEAS DEVELOPED OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS; ON VERIFICATION OF NON-PRODUCTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF RELEVANT SUBSTANCES, MARKS A NOTABLE CHANGE IN THE SOVIET POSITION, AND HAS GIVEN A WELCOME IMPETUS TO THE NEGOTIATION AS A WHOLE. ELABORATION OF DETAILED ANNEXES ON THESE THREE ARTICLES TOGETHER WITH ARTICLE III ON DECLARATIONS SHOULD LEAD THEMSELVES TO INTER-SESSIONAL WORK.

3. THE UK PROPOSAL ON CHALLENGE INSPECTION HAS BEEN PUBLICLY SUPPORTED BY FRANCE, THE FRG AND THE NETHERLANDS AND PRIVATELY WELL RECEIVED IN THE GROUP OF 21 AND BY WESTERN DELEGATIONS OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES WHICH HAS RE-STATEd ITS 1964 POSITION. THE SOVIET UNION HAS NOT REACTED AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE SUBJECT CAN BE CARRIED FORWARD INTER-SESSIONALLY.

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4. THE FINAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE UNDER MY CHAIRMANSHIP IN JANUARY WILL BE PRECEDED BY AN INFORMAL SESSION OF OPEN-ENDED CONSULTATIONS FROM 24 NOVEMBER TO 17 DECEMBER, AND I HAVE A GENERAL MANDATE TO CONSULT IN THE MEANTIME. THE RUSSIANS HAVE COMPLAINED PUBLICLY THAT MULTILATERAL MEETINGS BETWEEN NOW AND LATE NOVEMBER WERE PREVENTED BY THE US WHICH WANTED TO SLOW DOWN NEGOTIATIONS.

COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB)

5. PRIVATELY IF NOT PUBLICLY IT WAS CLEAR THAT BOTH THE SOCIALIST GROUP AND THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE GROUP OF 21 COULD ACCEPT SOMETHING VERY CLOSE TO THE WESTERN MANDATE. UNFORTUNATELY THE INSISTENCE OF GARCIA ROBLES (MEXICO) ON A NEGOTIATING MANDATE BLOCKED WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN A VERY HELPFUL DEVELOPEMENT. AS A RESULT THE RUSSIANS WERE ABLE TO HAVE A PROPAGANDA FIELD DAY WITH THEIR MORATORIUM AND ALLEGED OPENNESS ON VERIFICATION. WESTERN NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES WILL CONTINUE TO BE PILGRIMED ON CTB AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

6. FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR THE SERIES OF INFORMAL PLENARY MEETINGS ON CESSATION OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT (ITEM 2) ALLOWED DELEGATIONS TO LET OFF STEAM ON THIS ISSUE. THE SAME SOLUTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR (ITEM 3) WAS NOT ACCEPTED BY THE GROUP OF 21 WHO REPEATED, THOUGH WITH LESS INSISTENCE, THEIR CALL FOR AN AD HOC COMMITTEE. THE US WERE NOT PREPARED TO COMPROMISE WITH A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. THIS WILL AGAIN BE A DIFFICULT SUBJECT IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

OUTER SPACE

7. WHEN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE AT LAST STARTED SUBSTANTIVE WORK IN THE SUMMER SESSION THERE WAS IMMEDIATE PRESSURE FROM THE SOCIALIST GROUP AND MANY NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING MODERATES SUCH AS PAKISTAN AND VENEZUELA, TO PROCEED TO THE CONSIDERATION OF SWEEPING PROPOSALS. THE UK HAS PLAYED A LEADING PART IN GIVING SUBSTANCE TO THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF ISSUES SUCH AS THE EXISTING LEGAL REGIME AND VERIFICATION AND FOR A SERIES OF JOINT WESTERN STATEMENTS EMPHASISING COMMON GROUND ON POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE ISSUES. IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT THIS YEAR TO AGREE A GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BECAUSE OF INCREASED PRESSURE FOR EARLY NEGOTIATION.

COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF DISARMAMENT (CPD)

8. UNDER UK LEADERSHIP THE WESTERN GROUP MAINTAINED A GENERALLY

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CONSTRUCTIVE PROCEDURE ON THIS TENDENTIOUS EXERCISE WHICH REMAINS IMPORTANT TO SOME OF THE GROUP OF 21. A SURPRISING AMOUNT OF PROGRESS WAS MADE ON FORMULATING TEXTS ON DIFFICULT SECTIONS. PREDICTABLY IT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET THE DEADLINE OF COMPLETING A DRAFT FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS AUTUMN BUT IT WAS AGREED THAT WORK SHOULD CONTINUE IN THE SPRING WITH A VIEW TO COMPLETING IT BEFORE THE 41ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENDS LATER NEXT YEAR.

RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (RW)

9. THERE WAS NO PROGRESS ON EITHER RADIOLOGICAL WEAPNS IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE OR ON THE PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES. FOLLOWING A UK LEAD THE WESTERN GROUP IS COMING ROUND TO SUPPORTING RE-SEPARATION OF THE TWO TRACKS AND A MARKER ON THIS POINT WAS INCLUDED IN THE REPORT.

REPORT OF THE CD

10. THE PROCESS OF AGREEING THE REPORT OF THE CD WAS DIFFICULT THIS YEAR PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF US INSISTENCE ON REMOVING STATEMENTS THAT THEY RIGHTLY RECORDED AS OFFENSIVE FROM PARAGRAPHS REPORTING THE VIEWS OF THE GROUP OF 21, ESPECIALLY ON NUCLEAR TEST BAN. THEIR RUTHLESS TACTICS IN PURSUING THIS DESIRABLE AIM CAUSED CONSIDERABLE STRAINS BOTH IN THE WESTERN GROUP AND THE CONFERENCE AS A WHOLE AND HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A RATHER SOUR ATMOSPHERE AT THE END OF THE SESSION. THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN SITTING PRETTY WITH ITS NEW STYLE IMAGE AND NUCLEAR TEST MORATORIUM AND ONLY UNDER PRESSURE ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

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