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reference of Non-Nuclear-Weapons States, 28 Aug 1968

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Copy given to Mr. Kutakov who is
attending the Conference.

Under
23/9/68

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
TO THE OPENING SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES
GENEVA - 29 AUGUST 1968 - 3.00 P.M.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honour to read the following message from
U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations on the
occasion of the opening of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-
Weapon States.

A quarter of a century ago, the successful attainment
of a controlled nuclear chain reaction ushered in the nuclear
age. Man's ingenuity had, once again, penetrated the secrets
of nature but like many other great discoveries, this one was
fraught with potential for both good and evil.

Less than three years later came the tragedies of
Hiroshima and Nagasaki and mankind witnessed destruction and
human suffering on a scale hitherto unknown. The futility and
utter senselessness of war as an instrument of international
policy needed no stronger confirmation and yet, during the
past twenty years, we have been shocked and horrified by, but
mostly remained helpless witnesses of, an ever increasing and
dangerous nuclear arms race which continues unabated even today.
All of you are undoubtedly familiar with the report which was
prepared for me upon the request of the General Assembly by a
group of very eminent consultant experts on the effects and
implications of nuclear weapons. Their unanimous conclusions,
which have received wide support and publicity, indicate clearly
that the nuclear armouries already in being contain large megaton
weapons, every one of which has a destructive power greater than
that of all the conventional explosives that have ever been used

in warfare since the day gunpowder was discovered, and if these weapons are used in numbers, civilization as we know it would inevitably come to an end. In spite of these clear and authoritative statements, which have such dreadful implications for the human race, we find that there has been a steady escalation of the destructive power of nuclear weapons and of the stockpiles of nuclear arsenals.

Untiring efforts within and outside the United Nations to seek an end to the nuclear arms race and the eventual elimination of nuclear armaments have contributed to the search for new arrangements, aimed at ensuring the security of the peoples of the world.

The patient efforts of the last decade have produced a number of limited agreements whose impact in this direction is significant. I have in mind, in particular, the Antarctic Treaty, the Treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and, finally, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In connexion with the last Treaty it is most encouraging that more than seventy States have already signed the Treaty and I trust that they will soon be joined by others.

The security implications of the acquisition and further development of nuclear weapons has received considerable attention in recent years. In fact, the resolution of the General Assembly on the convening of this Conference specifically states that one of the questions to be considered at this Conference is how the

security of non-nuclear States can best be assured. I mentioned earlier the Report on the Effects and Implications of Nuclear weapons. The conclusion of the experts on the question of security, national and international, is very significant. They conclude unanimously that the solution of the problem of ensuring security cannot be found in an increase in the number of States possessing nuclear weapons or, indeed, in the retention of nuclear weapons by the Powers currently possessing them. Security for all countries of the world must be sought through the elimination of all stockpiles of nuclear weapons and the banning of their use, by way of general and complete disarmament.

It is my sincere hope that this Conference, to which I attach great importance, will examine new, practical steps and measures in the field of disarmament. In fact, all the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty have undertaken "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international controls."

The harnessing of nuclear energy has opened new and important possibilities for the advancement of science and technology for the benefit of all nations, big and small. It has been rightly said that the utilization of nuclear energy for the peaceful uses of mankind as a whole poses, perhaps, the greatest challenge to international statesmanship.

While remarkable progress has already been made in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy in many fields, such as medicine, agriculture, power and industry, nuclear science and

technology are still in their infancy and the full range of their application for the benefit of mankind is still being explored. Indeed, the impact of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is just beginning to be felt on a world-wide basis.

It is regrettable that most people and countries have not been able fully to participate in, or even comprehend, the deep significance of the spectacular achievements in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. This Conference is being held to examine, inter alia, the practical benefits to be derived from research and exploration in this field for the non-nuclear States. In my view, one of the main objectives of this Conference is to identify ways and means of ensuring that these benefits are used for the economic and social betterment of all countries, particularly those in the developing areas of the world. In this field, the technologically more advanced Powers can and should provide essential assistance to non-nuclear countries.

For this reason, the importance of Article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons cannot be under-estimated. The article is important not only because it reaffirms the inalienable right of States to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. It is also important because it provides an undertaking by all the Parties to the Treaty "to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy."

Equally significant are the provisions of Article V of the Treaty whose aim is to ensure that, under appropriate international observation and through appropriate international procedures, potential benefits from any peaceful applications of nuclear explosions will be made available on a non-discriminatory basis to non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty.

The major nuclear Powers for their part have firmly stated that they will scrupulously discharge their obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and that they will give particular attention to the needs of the developing nations. Let us hope, therefore, that this Conference will stimulate and strengthen the co-operation between nuclear and non-nuclear states in this field.

I am confident that the deliberations of this Conference on all these questions will be fruitful and will not only facilitate the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty but will also lead to further progress in disarmament and to a much wider sharing of the peaceful benefits of nuclear science and technology.

On this occasion, when the Conference is taking up the important task entrusted to it by the General Assembly, I extend to all of you my very best wishes for success in your endeavours.

*original
draft. Xhs
L. A. S. 2/8*

STATEMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
TO THE OPENING SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES
GENEVA - 29 AUGUST 1968 - 3.00 P.M.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honour to declare open the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States.

A quarter of a century ago, the successful attainment of a controlled nuclear chain reaction ushered in the nuclear age. Man's ingenuity had, once again, penetrated the secrets of nature but like many other great discoveries, this one was fraught with potential for both good and evil.

Less than three years later came the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and mankind witnessed destruction and human suffering on a scale hitherto unknown. We have learned from it, in the first place, that war can no longer be regarded as a valid instrument of international policy and yet, during the past twenty years, we have witnessed a most dangerous nuclear arms race. This senseless race continues unabated today. Although the nuclear armaments already in existence contain enough destructive power to annihilate all humanity many times over, there has been a steady escalation of the destructive power of nuclear weapons, of the stockpiles of nuclear arsenals and of the amount of human and material resources devoted to their manufacture.

Untiring efforts within and outside the United Nations to seek an end to the nuclear arms race and the eventual elimination of nuclear armaments have contributed to the search for new arrangements, aimed at ensuring the security of the peoples of the world.

The patient efforts of the last decade have produced a number of limited agreements whose impact in this direction is significant. I have in mind, in particular, the Antarctic Treaty, the Treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and, finally, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

I believe that another major lesson of the nuclear age is that the solution to the problem of ensuring national and international security cannot be found in any increase in the number of States possessing nuclear weapons. It is, indeed, most encouraging that more than seventy States have already signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commended by the General Assembly of the United Nations. I trust that they will soon be joined by many other States.

It is my sincere hope that this Conference, to which I attach great importance, will examine new, practical steps and measures in the field of disarmament. In fact, all the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty have undertaken "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international controls."

The harnessing of nuclear energy has opened new and important possibilities for the advancement of science and technology for the benefit of all nations, big and small. It has been rightly said that

the utilization of nuclear energy for the peaceful uses of mankind as a whole poses, perhaps, the greatest challenge to international statesmanship.

While remarkable progress has already been made in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy in many fields, such as medicine, agriculture, power and industry, nuclear science and technology are still in their infancy and the full range of their application for the benefit of mankind is still being explored. Indeed, the impact of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is just beginning to be felt on a world-wide basis.

It is regrettable that most people and countries have not been able fully to participate in, or even comprehend, the deep significance of the spectacular achievements in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. This Conference is being held to examine, inter alia, the practical benefits to be derived from research and exploration in this field for the non-nuclear States. In my view, one of the main objectives of this Conference is to identify ways and means of ensuring that these benefits are used for the economic and social betterment of all countries, particularly those in the developing areas of the world. In this field, the technologically more advanced Powers can and should provide essential assistance to non-nuclear countries.

For this reason, the importance of Article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons cannot be under-estimated. The article is important not only because it reaffirms the inalienable right of States to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. It is also

important because it provides an undertaking by all the Parties to the Treaty "to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy."

Equally significant are the provisions of Article V of the Treaty whose aim is to ensure that, under appropriate international observation and through appropriate international procedures, potential benefits from any peaceful applications of nuclear explosions will be made available on a non-discriminatory basis to non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty.

The major nuclear Powers for their part have firmly stated that they will scrupulously discharge their obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and that they will give particular attention to the needs of the developing nations. Let us hope, therefore, that this Conference will stimulate and strengthen the co-operation between nuclear and non-nuclear states in this field.

I am confident that the deliberations of this Conference on all these questions will be fruitful and will not only facilitate the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty but will also lead to further progress in disarmament and to a much wider sharing of the peaceful benefits of nuclear science and technology.

It would be no small measure of success if the Conference were to provide concrete evidence that the restrictions accepted by those who

have forsworn nuclear weapons are outweighed by the benefits which they could derive from the non-possession of such weapons.

On this occasion, when the Conference is taking up the important task entrusted to it by the General Assembly, I extend to all of you my very best wishes for success in your endeavours.

TO: U Thant, Secretary-General
As

FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL		POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE		POUR SIGNATURE
PREPARE DRAFT		PROJET A REDIGER
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS
MAY WE CONFER?		POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER?
YOUR ATTENTION		VOTRE ATTENTION
AS DISCUSSED		COMME CONVENU
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
NOTE AND FILE		NOTER ET CLASSER
NOTE AND RETURN		NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION

I submit, herewith, a draft of your
Statement to the Opening Session of the
Conference of Non-Nuclear Weapon States
in Geneva.

at
17/7

Z Kutakov

Date: 5/8/68

CR. 13 (11-64)

FROM:
DE: L.N. Kutakov

STATEMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
TO THE OPENING SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES
GENEVA - 29 AUGUST 1968 - 3.00 P.M.

Approved
Hear
12/8/68

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honour to declare open the Conference of Non-Nuclear
Weapon States.

A quarter of a century ago, the successful ^{attainment} ~~initiation~~ of a controlled
nuclear chain reaction ushered in the nuclear age. Man's ingenuity had,
once again, ^{penetrated the secrets of nature} ~~succeeded in tapping the resources of nature~~ but like many other
great discoveries, this ^{one} ~~was replete~~ ^{fraught} with potential for both good and evil.

Less than three years later came the tragedy ~~of~~ of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
and mankind witnessed destruction and human sufferings on a scale hitherto
unknown. We have learned from it, in the first place, that ~~nuclear war is~~
^{can no longer be regarded} ~~too destructive to be contemplated~~ as a valid instrument of international
policy and ^{yet} ~~still~~, during the past twenty years, we have ^{witnessed a most dangerous} ~~seen the horrible~~
nuclear arms race ^{this senseless race} ~~which~~ continues unabated today. Although nuclear armaments
^{already} in existence contain enough destructive power to annihilate all humanity many
times over, there has been a steady escalation ^{of} ~~of~~ the destructive power of
nuclear weapons, ^{of nuclear arsenals and of} ~~their~~ stockpiles ~~and~~ the amount of human and material
resources devoted to their manufacture.

Untiring efforts within and outside the United Nations to seek an end
to the nuclear arms race and the eventual elimination of nuclear armaments
have contributed to the search for new ^{arrangements} ~~ways and means~~, aimed at ensuring ~~the~~
security of the peoples of the world.

The patient efforts of the last decade have produced a number of limited agreements whose impact in this direction is significant. I have in mind, in particular, the Antarctic Treaty, the Treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and, finally, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

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^{, to which I attach great importance,}
It is my sincere hope that this Conference ^{will} examine new, practical ^{steps} ~~ways~~ and ^{measures} ~~means~~ in the field of disarmament. In fact, all the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty have undertaken "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international controls."

The harnessing of nuclear energy has opened new and important possibilities for the advancement of science and technology for the benefit of all nations, big and small. It has been rightly said that ^{the utilization of} nuclear energy ^{for the peaceful uses of mankind as a whole} poses, perhaps, the greatest challenge to international statesmanship, ~~in providing for the development of its peaceful uses and the benefits accruing from them.~~

While remarkable progress has already been made in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy in many fields, such as medicine, agriculture, power and industry, nuclear science and technology are still in their infancy and the full range of their application for the benefit of mankind is still being explored. Indeed, the impact of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is just beginning to be felt on a world-wide basis.

It is regrettable that most people and countries have not been able to fully ^{to} participate in, or even comprehend, the deep ^{significance} meaning of the spectacular achievements in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. The Conference is being held ~~here in Geneva, namely~~ ^{inter-alia,} to examine the practical benefits to be derived from research and exploration in this field for the non-nuclear States. ^{In my view, one of the main objectives of} ~~It is, therefore, my fervent hope that~~ ^{is to} this Conference will identify ways and means of ensuring that these benefits are used for the economic and social betterment of all countries, particularly those in the developing areas of the world. In this field, the technologically more advanced Powers ^{and should} can provide essential assistance to non-nuclear countries.

For this reason, the importance of Article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons cannot be under-estimated. The article is important not only because it reaffirms the inalienable right of States to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. It is also important because it provides an undertaking by all the Parties to the Treaty "to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy."

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The major nuclear Powers for their part have firmly stated that they will scrupulously discharge their obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and that they will give particular attention to the needs of the developing nations. ^{, therefore,} Let us hope ^{that the} Conference will stimulate and strengthen ^{the} cooperation between nuclear and non-nuclear states in this field.

I am confident that the ~~Conference~~ ^{of this Conference} deliberations on all these questions will be fruitful and will not only facilitate the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty but ^{will} also ~~initiate new~~ ^{lead to further progress in disarmament and to a much larger} ~~developments~~ ^{sharing of the peaceful benefits of nuclear science and technology.}

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On this occasion, when the Conference is taking up the important task ~~that has been~~ entrusted to it by the General Assembly, ~~of the United Nations,~~ ^{extend} I wish to all of you my very best wishes for success in your endeavours.