Chancellor Schmidt to Parliament: European disarmament [Extract], May 11, 1978

...intense talks on disarmament and arms limitation that lasting impetuses will emanate from these international disarmament discussions. The Soviet Union also has manifested toward us its desire to control the weapons not covered by the negotiations initiated by the SALT negotiations, and in the negotiations in the sphere at times referred to as the grey zone—medium-range missiles. This opens the prospect that in this sector, which is so momentous for Europe, there might meet a requirement to which we have already given attention. In the talks with the Soviet leadership, efforts may seem significant to us because the West must make sure that at the moment discussions with the objective to perpetuate the grey zone exist. We know, and we are aware of, that the Vienna negotiations, which have achieved a more stable situation in a lower military order of security for the parties involved. With the Soviet Union, we participate in the reduction of conventional arms in accordance with the modalities negotiated on June 18, 1978. This, by the way, is in keeping with the last initiative in which, as you know, the Federal Republic, together with Mr. Gaenscher and I personally, had a considerable share in the importance of the further development of measures in Europe. It would be another impor-
results of the new phase of its work to the Committee during its 1978
spring session.

"Nuclear Neutron Weapon" or "Reduced Blast/Enhanced Radiation
Weapon"

67. On 9 March 1978 Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic
Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union
introduced a draft convention on the prohibition of the production,
stockpiling, deployment and use of nuclear neutron weapons (CCD/
559).\(^\text{19}\) The co-sponsors considered that production and deployment
of such a new weapon, which they consider to be a new weapon of mass
destruction, would have a destabilizing effect on the current politico-
military situation and on disarmament negotiations, and would escalate
the arms race to a new and more dangerous level.

68. The United States,\(^\text{20}\) the United Kingdom and the Federal Repub-
lic of Germany rejected that proposal mainly on the grounds that
nuclear neutron weapons are nuclear weapons, which they do not con-
sider to be new weapons of mass destruction, and that such weapons
should be dealt with along with other nuclear weapons rather than
separately.

69. Several other States also expressed views on the issue and on
the proposed draft convention.

QUESTION OF THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

70. Since the conclusion, in 1971, of the Committee’s work on the
bacteriological (biological) weapons Convention, which entered into
force in 1975,\(^\text{21}\) the Committee has continued consideration of the
question of the prohibition of the development, production and stock-
piling of chemical weapons and on their destruction (the use of such
weapons is already banned by the 1925 Geneva Protocol,\(^\text{22}\) but many
States have reserved the right to retaliate in kind and some maintain
chemical weapons for deterrence and retaliatory purposes). Since the
bacteriological (biological) weapons Convention also covers toxins,
which are chemical substances, it, in essence, constitutes a first step
towards a prohibition of chemical weapons.

71. Consideration of the prohibition of the development, production
and stockpiling of chemical weapons and their destruction has been
influenced largely by three draft conventions and detailed working
papers and statements presented to the Committee by various members,
as follows: (a) a draft convention submitted by Bulgaria, the Byelo-
russian SSR, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic,
Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union, and the

\(^\text{19}\) An, pp. 167–168.
\(^\text{20}\) An, pp. 114–118.
\(^\text{21}\) The convention is printed in Documents on Disarmament, 1975, pp. 133–138.
\(^\text{22}\) Ibid., 1969, pp. 764–765.
Ukrainian SSR, providing for a comprehensive ban on all chemical weapons (CCD/361), (b) a draft convention submitted by Japan providing for a ban on all chemical weapons in principle, but with a phased application of the various categories of chemical agents as their prohibition became verifiable (CCD/420); (c) a draft convention by the United Kingdom based on elements from the drafts in (a) and (b) above, together with certain new ideas (CCD/512); and (d) a working paper submitted by Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Sweden and Yugoslavia, containing detailed suggestions for a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons (CCD/400), as well as working papers and statements containing proposals for the elaboration of a draft treaty presented by various Committee members, including Canada, Italy, Japan, United States and Yugoslavia.

72. During 1977 Italy, supported by a number of delegations, put forward a proposal for establishing a working group with the participation of experts, in order to begin the consideration of the basic principles of a draft convention pending the joint initiative announced by the United States and the Soviet Union. In its resolution 32/77 of 12 December 1977 on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue negotiations, as a matter of high priority, to undertake the elaboration of an agreement on chemical weapons, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives, and to report on the results of its negotiations to the General Assembly at its Special Session.

73. In 1974, the United States and the Soviet Union announced in Moscow their intention to consider a joint initiative for presentation to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament on the subject of chemical weapons. On 9 May 1978, those two States informed the Committee that they had held intensive bilateral talks since 1976 on a joint initiative to assist the Committee in achieving early agreement on a complete, effective and verifiable prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons, as well as providing for the destruction of existing chemical weapons. The two parties have also informed the Committee that agreement in principle has been reached, although not all, points in the area of scope. They have also reported that they are in agreement that the convention should contain provisions clearly specifying the procedures for declaring chemical-weapons stockpiles and making declarations relating to the means of production of chemical munitions and chemicals covered by the convention. However, measures relating to the disposition of those means of production require further negotiation. The two parties have further informed the Committee that they share
the view that arrangements for adequate verification should be based on a combination of national and international arrangements, including the creation of a consultative committee. The Committee has also been informed that, while the two parties have agreed on some arrangements and procedures in the area of verification, no agreement has yet been reached on certain important issues, including specific methods of verifying the destruction of chemical weapon stocks and the disposition of the means of production for chemical munitions and chemicals covered by the convention. The United States and Soviet Union have stated to the Committee that they will continue their best efforts to complete the bilateral negotiations on a joint initiative on this important and extremely complex problem as soon as possible.

74. In the Committee, numerous formal and informal meetings with experts have been held on a chemical weapons prohibition. These meetings have covered discussion of the draft proposals before the Committee and the possible consequences of a treaty on chemical weapons, along with technical matters considered necessary for evaluating the drafts, especially the scope and verification provisions of a treaty on chemical weapons. In the course of these discussions with regard to the scope of prohibition to be contained in a treaty, a narrowing of the views towards a nearly comprehensive ban has developed, while differences remain with respect to verification issues.

75. In keeping with its own agenda and resolution 32/77 the Committee has continued to treat the question of the prohibition of chemical weapons as a high priority item.

**QUESTION OF THE PROHIBITION OF NEW TYPES AND NEW SYSTEMS OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION**

76. During the last three years, the Committee has considered various issues relating to new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction. In 1976, the Soviet Union submitted a draft convention (CCD/511) to the CCD proposing a comprehensive prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction and indicating that the weapons to be covered would be specified through negotiations. Several members of the Committee supported the draft convention. Some members, including the United States, rejected the approach of an omnibus treaty. In 1977, the Soviet Union submitted a revised version (CCD/511/Rev. 1) of its draft convention which was based on 1948 United Nations definition of weapons of mass destruction as "... atomic explosive weapons, radioactive material weapons, lethal chemical and biological weapons, and any weapons developed in the future which have characteristics comparable in destructive effects to those of the atomic bomb or other weapons mentioned above ...". This draft convention included...

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29 Documents on Disarmament, 1976, pp. 516–519.
22 Ibid., 1977, pp. 493–496.