U.S.-SOVET COMMUNIQUE, MAY 17

The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to start negotiations on the control of space weapons. This agreement was reached during the recent visit of Soviet Premier Brezhnev to the United States. The negotiations will cover a broad range of topics, including the prevention of an arms race in space and the peaceful uses of outer space.

United States—Soviet Communiqué: Bilateral Consultations on Radiological and Chemical Weapons, May 17, 1977

Pursuant to agreement reached in the course of the talks during the visit of United States Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to Moscow in March 1977, bilateral consultations on some questions of arms limitation and disarmament were held in Geneva from 9 to 13 May between delegations of the USA and the USSR.

In the course of the consultations, questions of the prohibition of the development and production of new types and new systems of weapons of mass destruction were considered. In particular, the question of the prohibition of radiological weapons was examined. The sides discussed certain aspects and identified areas of agreement on questions under discussion.

The sides continued the consideration of questions related to a possible joint initiative in the CCD with respect to the conclusion of an international convention dealing with the most dangerous, lethal means of chemical warfare as a first step toward complete and effective prohibition of chemical weapons. The negotiations on this issue were held on the basis of the summit agreement between the USA and the USSR of July 3, 1974, and were a continuation of the US-Soviet consultations on lethal and other highly toxic means of chemical warfare conducted in Geneva in August 1976 and in April 1977. The discussion of these matters provided a useful basis for the continuation of the work with a view to preparing the text of an appropriate agreement which would be a practical implementation of the joint initiative.

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Administrator for Administration of the Law Enforcement Administration.
Representative for Negotiations, United States Disarmament Agency.

General Secretary Brezhnev [Extract], May 17, 1977

...
The two sides agreed to meet in the near future to continue consideration of all the matters which had been under discussion.

**Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, May 18, 1977**

The States Parties to this Convention,

Guided by the interest of consolidating peace, and wishing to contribute to the cause of halting the arms race, and of bringing about general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, and of saving mankind from the danger of using new means of warfare,

Determined to continue negotiations with a view to achieving effective progress towards further measures in the field of disarmament,

Recognizing that scientific and technical advances may open new possibilities with respect to modification of the environment,


Realizing that the use of environmental modification techniques for peaceful purposes could improve the interrelationship of man and nature and contribute to the preservation and improvement of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations,

Recognizing, however, that military or any other hostile use of such techniques could have effects extremely harmful to human welfare,

Desiring to prohibit effectively military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques in order to eliminate the dangers to mankind from such use, and affirming their willingness to work towards the achievement of this objective,

Desiring also to contribute to the strengthening of trust among nations and to the further improvement of the international situation in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Have agreed as follows:

**Article I**

1. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes not to engage in military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques having widespread, long-lasting or severe effects as the means of destruction, damage or injury to any other State Party.

2. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes not to assist, encourage or induce any State, group of States or international or regional organization to use environmental manipulation techniques to cause environmental pollution.

As used in this Convention, the term "environmental manipulation techniques" refers to techniques for producing significant and visible changes in the structure or functions of the atmosphere.

Each State Party to this Convention shall be entitled to determine whether a given environmental manipulation technique constitutes a significant and visible change in the function of the atmosphere.

1. The present Convention is open for signature by the States referred to in paragraph 1 of article 1.

2. The States Parties to this Convention may also be the States referred to in paragraph 1 of article 1.

3. The present Convention is open to accession by any State not referred to in paragraph 1 of article 1.

4. The present Convention is open to accession by any international organization not referred to in paragraph 1 of article 1.

5. The present Convention shall be deposited by the Secretary-General at the United Nations where it shall be registered and published.