

As far as armed forces in Central Europe are concerned, the two sides reaffirm the goal of the Vienna talks—to achieve, on the basis of the principle of undiminished security for the participants, a more stable situation with lower military levels than exist today. The two sides again pledge that, accordingly, they will be ready to participate, through their armed forces, in reductions affecting the immediate participants in the talks, on conditions to be determined in Vienna.

In the opinion of the two sides, existing distrust and the danger of military clashes could be overcome and the security of all strengthened through such talks and their results, as well as through the further development of measures to strengthen trust in Europe.

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Joint Statement by the United States and the Soviet Union to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament: Negotiations on a Chemical Weapons Ban, May 9, 1978¹

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.² 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.

¹ CCD/PV. 788, pp. 6-7.

² The resolution is printed in *Documents on Disarmament, 1977*, pp. 825-827.

forces in Central Europe are concerned, the two sides should be ready to participate in the Vienna talks—to achieve, on the basis of undiminished security for the participants, a more stable and lower military levels than exist today. That, accordingly, they will be ready to participate in the Vienna talks, on conditions to be determined in Vienna, and to overcome the existing distrust and the danger of a new arms race, the two sides, existing distrust and the danger of a new arms race should be overcome and the security of all strengthened through the Vienna talks and their results, as well as through the implementation of measures to strengthen trust in Europe.

by the United States and the Soviet Union to the Committee on Disarmament: Negotiations on a Chemical Weapons Ban, May 9, 1978¹

Resolution A/32/77 of 12 December 1977 on the prohibition of chemical weapons. The United Nations General Assembly stressed the importance of the joint initiative of the United States of America and the Soviet Socialist Republics to the Conference on Disarmament in order to assist it in achieving the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction.² The United States and the Soviet Union recognize that this resolution reflects the views of the international community to achieve such an objective and that this task is a high priority item of the Conference on Disarmament.

The work that has been done on this problem in the Conference on Disarmament, the United States and the Soviet Union have conducted bilateral negotiations with a view to reaching an agreement on the prohibition of chemical weapons and on their destruction. On 10 January 1978, the United States and the Soviet Union began in Geneva, and is continuing. Bilateral negotiations have been conducted intensively, the delegations of the United States and the Soviet Union have held numerous plenary and draft-

ing sessions. The United States and the Soviet Union believe that the future convention should meet the requirements of being complete, effective, and verifiable prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons, and on their destruction. Discussions of the means of production of chemical munitions and on their destruction by the convention are continuing.

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² Printed in *Documents on Disarmament, 1977*, pp. 825-827.

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. 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 fulfillment 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.