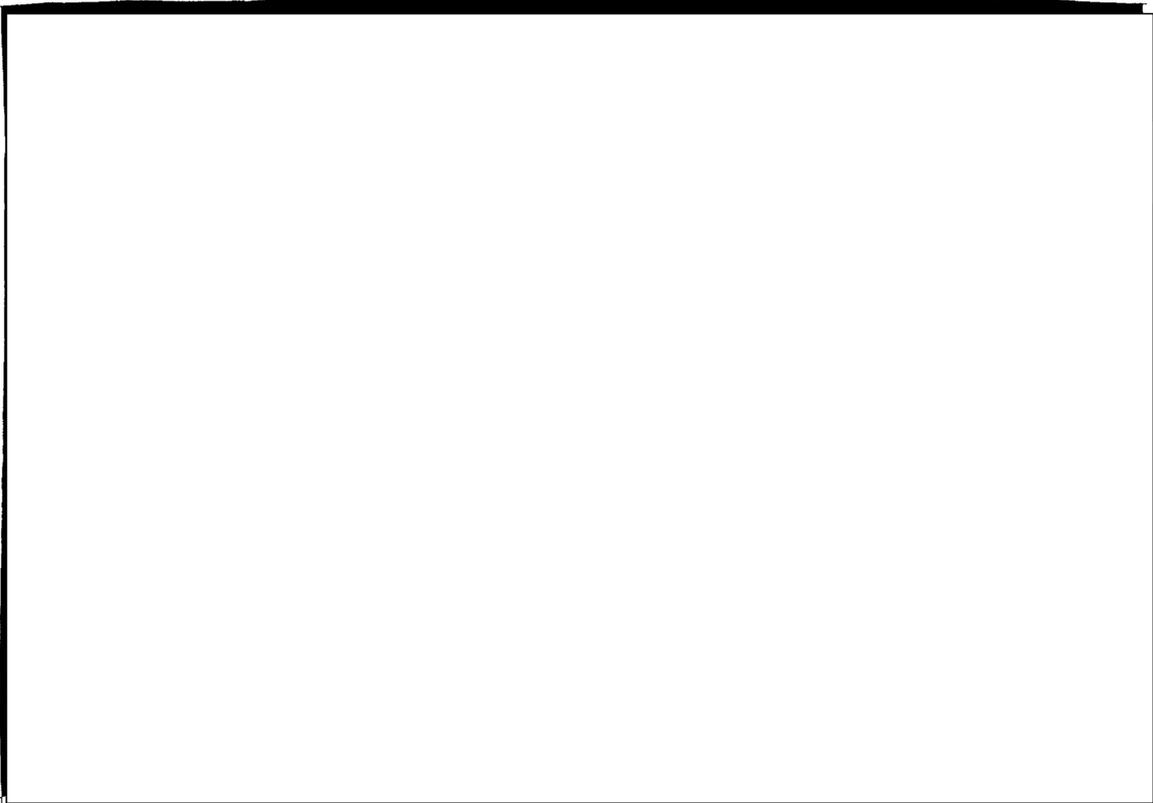
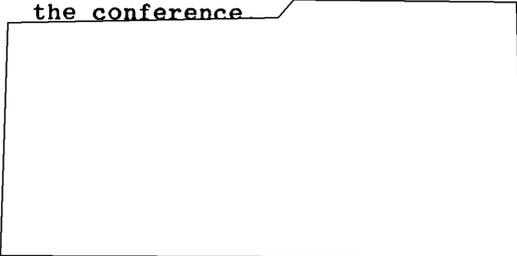


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NUCLEAR TEST BAN NEGOTIATIONS

Statements by chief Soviet delegate Tsarapkin at the nuclear test ban talks suggest that Moscow intends no major moves on the basic issues at the conference.



Tsarapkin confirmed this analysis in an interview with Radio Moscow on 19 April and in an interview with the French news service on 24 April. He claimed that the USSR had offered compromise proposals on all the unresolved questions

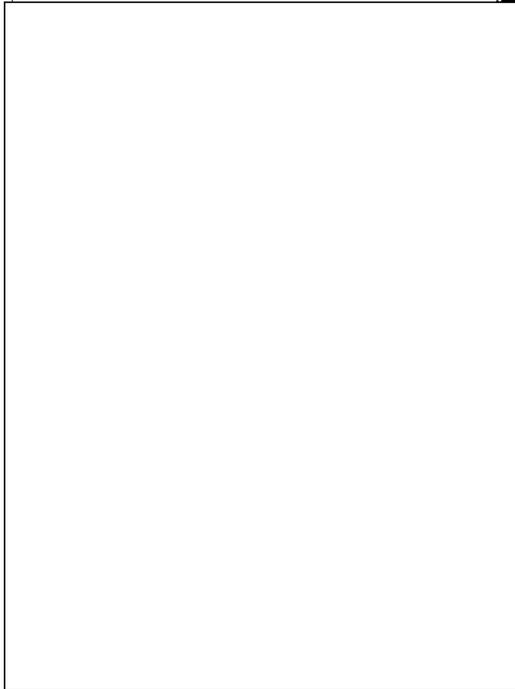
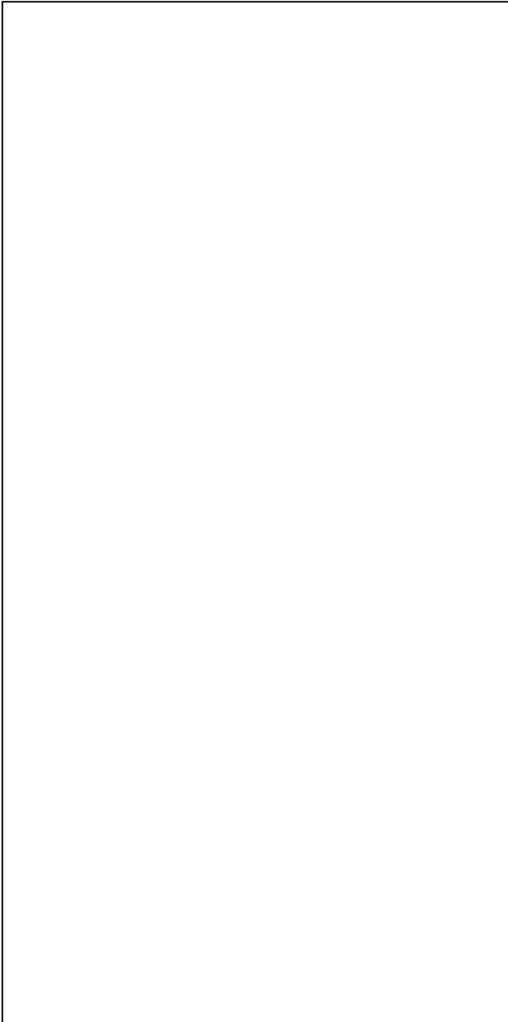
of the treaty and that further progress would depend on the attitude of the Western powers.

Tsarapkin listed three Soviet positions on which there could be no compromise: the maximum number of annual inspections in the Soviet Union would be three, as opposed to the Western proposals for 20; the maximum number of control posts on Soviet territory would be 15, rather than 19 as proposed by the West; and the composition of the control system's administration would have to be on a tripartite basis, with one Soviet, one Western, and one neutral representative.

Tsarapkin also criticized the Western draft treaty introduced on 18 April for being

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presented on a take-it-or-leave-it basis and blending unacceptable provisions with some reasonable ones. He took a similar over-all negative approach in a private conversation with the [redacted] on 21 April. Reviewing all the basic issues, Tsarapkin showed no change of position. He emphasized the Soviet proposal for a tripartite administrative council and claimed that it would be bound as much by treaty provisions as the single administrator proposed by the West.



Moscow's initial reaction to the French atomic test on 25 April contained no indication that the Soviet leaders plan to use this issue as a pretext for breaking off the negotiations. Soviet commentary has been confined to low-level propaganda charges that the test was a challenge to world opinion and upset an "agreement" on ending nuclear testing. At Geneva, Tsarapkin evaded journalists' questions and merely referred to his statements of 21 March, when he issued a "serious warning" as to the consequences of French testing on the negotiations. In his 19 April interview with Radio Moscow, however, Tsarapkin warned that if France continued to test, a "treaty may not be signed at all" since further French testing would make a treaty "actually useless." [redacted]

