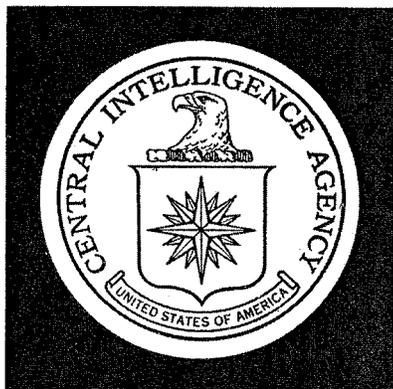


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DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

# WEEKLY SUMMARY

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## GENEVA DISARMAMENT TALKS RESUME ON 21 FEBRUARY

The Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee (ENDC) reconvenes in Geneva on 21 February in an atmosphere of hope that agreement may be in sight on a treaty to curb the spread of nuclear weapons. Largely an academic question at previous sessions of the ENDC, a nonproliferation treaty has become a tangible possibility in recent months because past differences between Moscow and Washington have narrowed. However, some of the Western allies retain reservations about the proposed text of the treaty, and the nonaligned countries increasingly insist that the present preponderance of the nuclear super powers must somehow be redressed.

In 1965 the US proposed a nonproliferation treaty prohibiting the transfer of nuclear weapons to the national control of any nonnuclear state, and forbidding nuclear states to take any other action that would increase the total number of states having independent power to use such weapons. The language of this draft would not have precluded the creation of a multilateral nuclear force, and for this reason in part the Soviet Union would not accept it.

A newly proposed draft, seeking to answer the Soviet objections, would rule out such a force although an eventually federated Europe would inherit the rights of a nuclear member. Provision is also made for safeguarding the sale and transmission of fissionable materials by the International Atomic Energy Agency, and for reviewing the operation of the treaty after five years.

A majority of the NATO allies support the new draft, but some members continue to have reservations. At the North Atlantic Council meeting of 8 February, the Italian representative stated that Rome did not consider the new draft acceptable, in part because it would place a roadblock in the path of European unity, would keep some allies in an inferior position, and would not provide for the nuclear disarmament of nuclear powers. It is unclear how hard Italy will press its reservations in the ENDC sessions.

Despite the Bonn government's endorsement of the draft in principle, it remains concerned that the treaty would restrict the peaceful uses of atomic energy by nonnuclears and would impede European technological growth. The West German public holds a widespread belief that the treaty would lock their country into a permanently inferior position.

France has stated that it does not intend to sign the treaty. Moreover, some of the eight nonaligned countries in the ENDC will almost certainly have problems with the new draft and may seek alliance with the opposition in Western Europe.

India, for example, is likely to push for security guarantees to accompany the treaty, as well as for some indication from the nuclear powers that they will take disarmament measures. Japan, which is not a member of the ENDC but is trying to get in, will support any moves for a security guarantee, but it may object to the proposed ban on the acquisition of a peaceful nuclear explosives capability.