

U.S., Russia Exchange A-Drafts

The United States and the Soviet Union are exchanging draft language for a nuclear non-proliferation pact, even though no agreed text yet exists.

That clarification was obtained from informed sources yesterday about conflicting reports out of London and Washington on the state of the treaty talks.

The Johnson Administration is attempting to keep a tight secrecy lid on the negotiations with its allies and with the Soviet Union, to avoid endangering the prospects for agreement.

On the United States side, discussions are being supervised, or directly conducted, by Secretary of State Dean Rusk and William C. Foster, head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Anatoly F. Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador to Washington, is engaged in the quiet diplomatic exchange, along with Llewellyn E. Thompson, who returned to Moscow this week as United States Ambassador.

Assurance Wanted

The West German Cabinet on Wednesday gave approval "in principle" to the proposed pact. But a Bonn spokesman specified that there are "numerous questions" on which Bonn wants "complete clarity."

That qualified endorsement, informed sources said, primarily was issued for the following reasons:

West Germany, which is pledged not to produce nuclear weapons on its own territory, seeks firm assurance that the intended treaty will not foreclose the possible development of a European nuclear force, in which she might share.

According to Western

sources, Bonn does not regard the proposed language it has seen on this key point to be totally satisfactory, from its standpoint. That is the principal reason for Bonn's call for "clarity."

Clarification Promised

The United States, it was said, has assured Bonn that any ambiguities in the treaty text will be fully clarified by United States officials when the treaty goes through the Senate. That is, that the United States will specify that the treaty would leave open the prospect for a European nuclear force which would not spread nuclear weapons to any individual nation.

In theory, at least, the present British or French nuclear forces, or both, might some day be converted into a Western European force.

The United States has been threading its way through language to leave open that possibility, and yet assure the Russians that it will not lead to German acquisition of nuclear weapons.

To ease Bonn's insistence on equal treatment among the Western Allies, West Germany in December was given a permanent seat on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's new Nuclear Planning Group.

Present hopes are that language for the proposed treaty barring the spread of nuclear weapons can be agreed upon before, or soon after, the 17-member United Nations Disarmament Committee reconvenes at Geneva on Feb. 21.