

Puck 10/15/66

Nonproliferation Pact Gets Priority at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Oct. 14 (AP) — Disarmament was given priority in the U.N. General Assembly's Main Political Committee today with a glimmer of hope that the U.S.-Soviet deadlock over a treaty to ban the spread of nuclear weapons could finally be loosening.

Bolstered by expressions of optimism from both President Johnson and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko, the 119-nation Committee decided to lead off its agenda with debate on the proposed nonproliferation pact.

Agreement on the agenda was reached yesterday at a meeting of U.S. Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg, Soviet U.N. Ambassador Nikolai T. Fedorenko and others.

Gromyko discussed the proposed treaty with Mr. Johnson at the White House Monday and that night at dinner with Secretary of State Dean Rusk. Afterward Gromyko said several issues relating to disarmament had been discussed, and "it looks like both countries are striving to reach agreement and facilitate conclusion of an international agreement."

A State Department spokesman said this week that some misunderstandings preventing agreement on a nonproliferation treaty had been removed. He did not specify what they were.

The core of the U.S.-Soviet disagreement has been the future role of West Germany in the nuclear defense of the North Atlantic Alliance. Mos-

cow contended that the treaty draft the United States presented at the arms talks in Geneva contained loopholes that would permit West Germany to obtain nuclear arms.

The Committee debate will open on a resolution, drafted by the Soviet Union with the United States as a cosponsor, which appeals to all nations not to do anything that might hamper agreement to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

The resolution, despite its sponsorship, has been viewed as a slap at U.S. plans to share strategic control of its nuclear weapons with its allies.

The disarmament debate will also cover other items on which the Geneva Committee has made no progress: General and complete disarmament, suspension of nuclear weapon tests, prohibition of nuclear weapons, and elimination of foreign military bases from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Elsewhere in the United Nations, Communist and neutral nations pressed their demands today for an unconditional cessation to the U.S. bombing of North Vietnam despite emphatic rejection by President Johnson of any such move now.

Secretary General U Thant persisted also in pushing for the unilateral action by the United States as the first step in his own three-point plan to promote Vietnam peace negotiations.