

Hopes for Nonproliferation Treaty Rise

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38

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. — The United States and the Soviet Union declared today that prospects were improved for agreement on a treaty to ban the spread of nuclear weapons. Both pointed out that substantial disagreement remain.

U.S. Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg and Soviet Ambassador Nikolai T. Fedorenko made the statements in opening the annual disarmament debate in the Assembly's 121st Main Political Committee.

Goldberg told the Committee that substantial progress has been made in the 17-nation disarmament talks in Geneva. He said the United States was encouraged also by Soviet statements made by Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko after his recent talks with President Johnson and Secretary of State Dean Rusk in Washington, but that "important differences remain."

In a similar manner Fedorenko declared that some changes for the better could be discerned in prospects for agreement on the problem of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

However, it was plain from Fedorenko's speech that the Soviet Union considered West Germany's role in nuclear defense planning by the NATO powers a major issue still to be resolved.

He said that West Germany was still striving to obtain access to nuclear weapons, and cited predictions by a British study group that by 1970 West Germany would be able to produce 200 atomic bombs annually.

Goldberg said that the United States is opposed to the spread of nuclear weapons and U.S. policy excludes any agreement under which proliferation would be possible.