

Soviets, West Stalemated On Nuclear Pact

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GENEVA, Feb. 20—Western and Soviet negotiators, seeking to draft a treaty to ban the spread of nuclear weapons, were stalemated tonight on how to proceed when the 17-nation Disarmament Conference reopens here Tuesday.

The United States and Russia have reached a general understanding on the main lines of a nuclear nonproliferation treaty, but the preamble and the vital control clause designed to constitute Article 3 of the treaty—remain to be negotiated.

The chief negotiators, William C. Foster of the United States and Alexei Roshchin of the Soviet Union, met twice over the weekend in an effort to resolve remaining differences.

According to reliable sources, Foster proposed that the United States and Russia lay before the conference at least those treaty articles on which agreement was possible. However, the Soviet delegate is said to have opposed announcing anything less than a full joint draft treaty.

Some Hope

There was still some hope that Roshchin might receive new instructions from Moscow on this point. Western delegations therefore remained vague as to whether the formal opening of the conference Tuesday afternoon would be strictly ceremonial or might yet produce important political substance.

However, diplomatic observers speculated that the Soviet insistence on full agreement, before any publicity, may involve strong political motives. The motives involve the U.S.

relation to West Germany, where right-wing circles have been waging a public attack on the treaty.

The German rightist attack has been focused on the control provisions in U.S. draft versions of Article 3. The United States is seeking control of all nuclear activities within and among the non-nuclear states by the International Atomic Energy Authority in Vienna. It is a United Nations affiliate.

U.S. sources here say that Russia has yet to approve finally the principle of IAEA control, and that even with Soviet approval in principle there would have to be a great deal of negotiation on the exact powers to be assigned the agency under the treaty.

German Opponents

Nevertheless, former German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, Finance Minister Franz Josef Strauss and others have attacked IAEA control as involving "Soviet control of German industry." Foreign Minister Willy Brandt and other German moderates have noted that Sweden and other nations have never complained about IAEA practices until now, and that these practices include the right of any nation to refuse one IAEA inspector and ask for another of different nationality.

U.S. officials are extremely disturbed by the campaign

against the treaty being waged in the German rightist press, which has included publication of top secret American draft-treaty formulations.

There is some concern, however, that the Soviet Union will consider as American-inspired the arguments being leveled against the treaty.

German Signature

Soviet leaders have made plain that the West German signature on the treaty is the one that interests them most. They may feel now that, unless the U.S. can deliver Bonn's consent to a full treaty including stringent IAEA controls, the rest of the package can wait.

Western diplomats, on the other hand, wish to show some progress now but would apparently prefer to wait some time before tackling the hardest issues, especially the control clause.

Diplomatic observers believe that, compared with the campaign being waged in West Germany, the demands of the other non-nuclear states are relatively easy for the nuclear powers to satisfy. As for Soviet-American differences, one observer remarked: "It looks now as if the Germans will be a bigger problem in the long run than the Russians."

BONN, Feb. 20 — [From Bonn, the Los Angeles Times reported that the West German Government stated that the nuclear powers should undertake "a substantial reduction of their atomic weapons capabilities" as part of the proposed nonproliferation treaty.

[While expressing support of the principle of an international pact aimed at halting the spread of nuclear weapons, the statement declared that its acceptance depended upon whether the West Germans felt their security and the future of their peaceful scientific development were not hampered by the controls of such a treaty.

[The Kiesinger regime thus left the door wide open for ultimately going along with the treaty while at the same time continuing efforts to obtain the guarantees it wants.

[To allay the growing fears that are being voiced by such high German officials and industrialists, the United States sent Myron B. Kratzer, a top Atomic Energy Commission official, to Bonn to explain the American position and argue for the treaty.]