

# Geneva A-Talks: The Second Step?

By Anatole Shub  
Washington Post Foreign Service

GENEVA, Feb. 18—"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step," President Kennedy, quoting a Chinese proverb, told the American people upon the conclusion of the Moscow Treaty of Aug. 5, 1963, that banned nuclear testing in the atmosphere, under water and in outer space.

In the Palais des Nations at Geneva next week, there are high hopes that a second step—perhaps more important than the limited test ban—may soon be taken.

The step under consideration by the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and other members of the 18-nation disarmament conference that reconvenes Tuesday is a treaty to ban the spread of atomic weapons. The Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty would endeavor to close the nuclear club at its present five members: the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, France and Communist China.

## Some Reservations

The Geneva sessions may center not on a conventional East-West propaganda battle—since the U.S. and the Soviet Union are in "general understanding" on a treaty—but on efforts by Washington, London and Moscow together to satisfy the non-nuclear nations of the world. Although the interest and attitudes of the non-nuclear states vary considerably, they appear to share (as does nuclear France) a common reservation: a feeling that, while the treaty may prevent other nations from becoming atomic powers, it does nothing to slow down the dangerous arms race between the two atomic giants—America and Russia—or bring the world much closer to actual disarmament.

[The Washington Post's Waverley Root reported from Paris that the French definitely will not sign the treaty. The French position is that pact would simply freeze arms, and that this would not be beneficial to Paris. China is not expected to sign any agreement, either.]

Sweden and other nations are urging that the treaty be coupled with some sort of American-Soviet arms freeze—

including, if possible, agreement not to embark on a costly competition in building antiballistic missile systems. Poland is likely to urge renewed consideration for its Rapacki and Gomulka Plans, proposing troop reductions and "denuclearization" in central Europe. Other non-nuclear states would like to see at least a token start by Moscow and Washington in reducing nuclear weapons stocks.

## Seek a Solution

William C. Foster of the U.S., Alexey Roshchin of the Soviet Union and Britain's Lord Chalfont will attempt to deal with these and other proposals either in the preamble to the treaty, through separate agreements, or both.

Another source of possible controversy is the so-called "control clause," reportedly contained in Article 3 of the U.S. draft treaty to be unveiled Tuesday. According to reports, the clause calls for the supervision of all peaceful nuclear research in the non-nuclear states and nuclear transactions between states by The International Atomic Energy Agency, a United Nations affiliate with headquarters in Vienna. U.S. diplomats are said to believe such controls necessary in order to obtain Senate ratification of the treaty. The Soviet attitude toward the controls is not yet certain.

The clause has drawn heavy fire in West Germany from conservative leaders previously active in the quest of a multilateral nuclear force. They charge that IAEA inspection would mean "Soviet control of German industry," and thus "a super-Yalta of cosmic proportions."

[West German Foreign Minister Willy Brandt, in an interview with the Hamburg daily Die Welt, suggested that existing nuclear powers be excluded from inspecting non-nuclear states under any control system with the treaty, Reuters reported from Bonn.]

["It is obvious that only inspectors should be permitted from those countries which allow themselves to be inspected," he said.]

Soviet Premier Kosygin is not alone



Foster Chalfont  
... hope for treaty agreement

in believing that West Germany will ultimately ratify the treaty, whether all of its leaders now wish to or not. However, the prospect of Soviet-American agreement may well stain the unity of Bonn's "Grand Coalition" government, and provide harsh background accompaniment to the quite formal negotiations at Geneva.

## Five-Year Search

The search for a nonproliferation treaty began more than five years ago, with unanimous passage by the U.N. General Assembly of an Irish resolution calling for a world agreement that the nuclear powers refuse to give away atomic weapons and non-nuclear states refuse to make or accept them.

For years, in negotiations both at the U.N. and at disarmament conferences, agreement between Washington and Moscow appeared impossible. The main obstacle was the U.S. project to grant West Germany and other interested allies "co-possession" of a multilateral or allied nuclear force. The Soviet Union held any such force to be incompatible with a treaty.

Between December, 1964, and October, 1966, President Johnson slowly smothered Bonn's hopes for a joint force. During the same period, China's nuclear progress and increasingly anti-Soviet policy heightened Soviet interest in agreement with the U.S.

Thus, despite the Vietnam war, the way was cleared last fall for a series of closed-door American-Soviet talks which are said to have produced "general understanding" on the main lines of a treaty. In the past fortnight, U.S. Secretary of State Rusk, British Prime Minister Wilson and Soviet Premier Kosygin have all publicly expressed hope that agreement on a precise text is near.

## Sato Casts Doubts on Japan Joining A-Pact

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TOKYO, Feb. 18—Japanese Premier Eisaku Sato cast doubt today on whether Japan would agree to a nuclear non-proliferation treaty if it only strengthened the position of the nuclear powers and was not a step toward total disarmament.

Sato told a press conference that he agreed "in principle"

to the conclusion of a non-proliferation treaty, which will be discussed at the resumed Geneva disarmament conference next week. But he said he opposed such a pact if the nuclear powers did not pay attention to the interests of non-nuclear nations.

He emphasized the right of non-nuclear nations to conduct atomic tests for peaceful

purposes. Earlier, a spokesman for the Japanese Foreign Ministry said Japan will not waive its right to detonate nuclear devices for peaceful purposes.

Because of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the only victims of nuclear war, Japan is the world's most sensitive nation to nuclear problems. Increasing debate shows the majority

of Japanese opposed to nuclear armament, for the country.

Scientific observers here believe Japan could produce a nuclear weapon and a medium-range rocket delivery system within two years of a decision to go ahead.

Sato, however, reiterated Japan's basic policy of not developing nuclear weapons and of keeping U.S. nuclear arms out of the country.