

**Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons
and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed
and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof**

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UNITED NATIONS
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DEPARTMENT OF
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Note by the Secretariat

1. In paragraph 16 B and C of its Final Report, the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof decided to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare, inter alia, (a) a compilation of official communications with regard to the implementation of the objectives and provisions of the Treaty, which the Secretary-General and the Depositaries may have received; and (b) a compilation of papers on technological developments (military as well as peaceful) relevant to the Treaty which Parties may wish to provide, or which are otherwise officially available to the Secretary-General from Governments.
2. The Chairman of the Preparatory Committee conveyed this request to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by a letter dated 28 February 1977.
3. In response to the Committee's request the Secretary-General sent a note verbale, dated 24 March 1977, to the Depositary Governments, the substantive part of which reads as follows:

"The Secretary-General would greatly appreciate the assistance of His Excellency's Government, as a Depositary of the Treaty, in making the necessary arrangements so that the Secretary-General may receive, directly, or through its intermediary, before 1 May 1977, the papers on technological developments that Parties to the Treaty may wish to provide in accordance with paragraph 16 C of the Final Report of the Preparatory Committee. The Secretary-General would also appreciate it if His Excellency's Government would transmit to him, before 1 May 1977, the communications it may have received pursuant to paragraph 16 B of the Final Report of the Preparatory Committee. As called for in paragraph 16 B and C, the Secretary-General will prepare compilations of the papers and communications received and will submit them to the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition

of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof which will be held in Geneva, from 20 June to 1 July 1977."

4. The Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America replied by notes verbales dated 3 May 1977 and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics by a note verbale of 16 May 1977. The substantive parts of these replies are reproduced in the following letter which the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Review Conference addressed to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on 6 June 1977:

"Sir,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I have the honour to communicate to you the substantive parts of the replies that the Secretary-General has received from the three Depositary Governments of the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof to his note verbale of 24 March 1977, asking their assistance for the preparation of the information papers requested by the Preparatory Committee in paragraph 16 B and C of its Final Report.

In a note verbale dated 3 May 1977, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom stated the following:

'... the Government of the United Kingdom have received no official communications with regard to the implementation of the objectives and provisions of the Treaty other than reservations, declarations and statements made on signature or ratification of the Treaty. These have been registered with the United Nations as they have been received by the United Kingdom Government.

The Permanent Representative also wishes to inform the Secretary-General with reference to paragraph 1(C) of the Secretary-General's Note, that the Government of the United Kingdom have not received any papers on technological developments relevant to the Treaty from parties to the Treaty pursuant to paragraph 16(C) of the final report of the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference. Nor do the Government of the United Kingdom wish themselves to submit a paper at this stage.'

In a note verbale dated 3 May 1977, the Permanent Representative of the United States of America stated the following:

'The United States Government, in its capacity as a depositary of the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, has not received any official communications with regard to the implementation of the objectives and provisions of the Treaty.

At this time, the United States Government has not identified any technological developments relevant to the Treaty's operation and effectiveness for consideration at the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty.'

In a note verbale dated 16 May 1977, the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated the following:

'... The Soviet Union, as a Depositary of the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, has received no official communications from States Parties concerning the realization of the purposes of the Treaty and its implementation.

Declarations made by individual States when signing or ratifying the Treaty had been duly transmitted to the States Parties in accordance with article X, paragraph 5, of the Treaty.'

I also wish to inform you that the Secretary-General has received no official communications with regard to the implementation of the objectives and provisions of the Treaty and that no papers on technological developments (military as well as peaceful) relevant to the Treaty are officially available to the Secretary-General from Governments."