Europe

GENEVA DISARMAMENT TALKS NEAR END

Members of the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee (ENDC) are trying to wind up their present session in order to report to the UN General Assembly in September. East-West differences over a nonproliferation treaty and diminishing support from the nonaligned members for the Western formula have precluded any real progress, and little is likely in the remaining weeks.

In the past few months the Soviets have come down heavily on the fact that the Western draft for a nonproliferation treaty would not outlaw the transfer of nuclear weapons to nonnuclear powers--West Germany in particular--but only require the consent of a nuclear state before such weapons are used. These Soviet attacks have tended to erode support for the Western formula, which was designed to leave open the possibility for some kind of a NATO nuclear force.

In a recent meeting of the NATO Council, Britain, the Netherlands, and Belgium urged in particular that the so-called European option clause in the Western draft, which allows for the development of a European nuclear force, be reconsidered. They contended that some such move is necessary if anything is to be accomplished at Geneva. By all indications, however, the Soviets' genuine concern is the prevention of any form of access to nuclear weapons by West Germany. Any tinkering with the European option clause is not likely to allay this.

The prolonged deadlock has disillusioned the nonaligned members, and they may present their own version of a nonproliferation treaty. This would reportedly call for a ban on the transfer of nuclear weapons to states not already having them, a cut-off on the production of fissionable material for weapons, an obligation on nuclear states to reduce stockpiles, and the universal application of international safeguards to all nuclear activities. By introducing additional measures on which the major powers do not agree, such a proposal would tend to complicate the proceedings further.

The Italian delegate has revived the "Fanfani proposal," which calls for all states not having nuclear weapons to declare unilaterally that they will not acquire them. The Italians have also proposed that the the UN General Assembly should ask the nuclear powers to agree not to use their weapons against states who issue such declarations and to come to their aid in case of nuclear

attack or blackmail. Rome believes this would at least avoid having the ENDC wind up without having accomplished anything, a prospect that might lead to its abolition or to a revived interest in a world disarmament conference.

The Egyptian delegate, to help justify the existence of the ENDC, would have the nonaligned members issue a memorandum on the topic of general and complete disarmament, mentioning the proposals that have been made, recognizing the importance of disarmament, and stating that discussion should continue.

WARSAW PACT FORCES HOLD EXERCISE IN BALTIC

Recent naval and air maneuvers in the Baltic involving Soviet, East German, and Polish forces are part of the greater effort being made within the Warsaw Pact to improve the effectiveness of the "northern tier" forces in various contingency roles.

The Polish press announced that the maneuvers were conducted from 20 to 27 July under the command of the Warsaw Pact commander in chief, Soviet Marshal A. Grechko, and that their purpose was to check the combat readiness and coordination of Pact forces. The commanders of the naval forces of each of the countries, as well as the Polish defense minister and his deputy--who is chief of Poland's territorial defense--were reportedly also present.

Baltic-based Soviet, East German, and Polish ships probably took part in the naval portion of the exercise, which may have included antisubmarine and missile patrol-boat activity as well as torpedo firings and minesweeping. A small amphibious landing possibly also took place.

The exercise may have been the largest of its type held in the Baltic area under Warsaw Pact auspices. It accounts in part for a 30 July Soviet Navy Day statement by Soviet naval chief Admiral Gorshkov, who said that cooperation between the fleets of the Warsaw Pact countries was "growing and strengthening with each passing day."

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

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