

**REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE
DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING
OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND
TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTH MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 6 March 1980, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. VAERNØ (Norway)

CONTENTS

Review of the operation of the convention as provided for in its article XII

(a) General Debate (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

REVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF THE CONVENTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN ITS ARTICLE XII

(a) GENERAL DEBATE (continued) (BWC/CONF.I/3 to 6)

1. The PRESIDENT invited participants to continue the discussion of agenda item 10 (a). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Conference agreed that the list of participants who wished to speak in the general debate should be closed at 6 p.m. that day.

2. It was so decided.

3. Mr. RUZEK (Czechoslovakia) said that Czechoslovakia attached particular importance to the Convention, whose aim was the total elimination of one complete system of weapons of mass destruction from the arsenals of States. His country had been a co-author of the draft convention submitted to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in 1971.

4. Eighty-five States had ratified the Convention and 37 had signed it, but his country considered that it would be useful to increase the number further so that the Convention might achieve universality. The fact that the production of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons was within reach of a greater number of States than was the case with relatively more expensive systems made it all the more urgent to achieve that goal.

5. His country considered it important that, during the period which had elapsed since the Convention had entered into force, nothing had happened which could lead to the conclusion that the provisions of the Convention had been violated. In its opinion, the provisions of the Convention laying down obligations and regulations pertaining to control were well balanced and effective, and it seemed that all the necessary areas were adequately covered.

6. The question of chemical weapons was closely connected with that of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons. It was known that the socialist countries had persistently pressed for the prohibition of chemical and bacteriological weapons in the framework of one common measure. In the end, they had agreed to a compromise in the form of a separate solution to both questions, with the understanding that the Convention was merely the first step on the road towards the prohibition of chemical weapons. Yet in spite of the proposals and offers of compromise that they had submitted since the entry into force of the Convention, the ban on chemical weapons had not materialized. Czechoslovakia wanted the practical preparations for the work on a treaty on complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and their destruction to be started as speedily as possible within the Committee on Disarmament.

7. His country was convinced that the efforts in the field of disarmament should be continued and become more systematic. It considered that the results of the Conference would contribute towards the deepening of international co-operation in the field of disarmament and it was prepared to co-operate fully to that end.

8. Mr. KOCHUBEY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the past five years had made it possible to determine the effectiveness of the Convention. He was happy to note that none of the articles had been violated, that there had been no complaints and that the Convention had been applied in a spirit of co-operation and good will. The Convention, drawn up in the early 1970s, a period essentially characterized by détente, had been the first measure towards real disarmament. His country had ratified the Convention on 21 February 1975 and was fully carrying out its obligations under articles I to V of the Convention.

9. The Convention was in no way an obstacle to the progress of bacteriological and biological science designed to increase agricultural production or improve health and nutrition. The Institute of Microbiology and Virology of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic was co-operating with scientific institutes in Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic. Its research formed the subject of articles in various publications and Ukrainian experts participated in international scientific meetings, such as the meeting held at Munich in 1979. Of particular interest was the conclusion in the report of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference (BWC/CONF.I/5) that the activities undertaken for pacific purposes in the bacteriological field had not created possibilities of violating or bypassing the provisions of the Convention. That conclusion bore witness to the effectiveness of the Convention.

10. Article IX of the Convention drew attention to the need to ban chemical weapons as speedily as possible. The socialist countries had always stressed the importance of such a ban and he was happy that the Committee on Disarmament had shown considerable interest in that question.

11. One of the tasks of the Conference was to reaffirm the importance of the effectiveness of the Convention. Renewed efforts to increase the number of States parties should therefore be made. Certain States members of the Security Council were not yet parties to the Convention. France, which was not, had enacted a law banning bacteriological weapons, but China, which was also not a party to the Convention, had taken no such step. It was to be hoped that in its final document the Conference would make an appeal to States to accede to the Convention.

12. The effectiveness of the Convention proved that the possibilities of solving a complex problem concerning the armaments race were very real, provided there was a political will to solve it.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.

