

ted, but which would not be submitted necessarily either to Congress or to the President.

Article 10

Discussion of this Article was under three headings.

(a) Ratification

It had been suggested by the United Kingdom that after the words "a majority of the signatories" there should be inserted the words "including Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States". For the most part it was thought that this would be inadvisable as it smacked too much of the veto. In particular, our representative said that he would not wish Canada to be included in this group. Hickerson said, half seriously, that he did not think the United States would agree to being named unless Canada was named also. It was, of course, recognized that in light of history, European countries when asking for power to ratify would immediately be faced with the question—what is the United States going to do? Hickerson said that he thought that in presenting the problem of ratification to their Governments and to their Parliaments, it could be said that in Washington it was generally agreed that no country would deposit its ratification until the United States had done so.

(b) Duration

The Working Group was informed yesterday afternoon, as I have already told you in an earlier message, that the Under-Secretary of State was thinking in terms of 12 to 20 years. The Brussels Powers, and in particular the United Kingdom and France, are thinking in terms of a longer Treaty, but the United Kingdom is prepared to settle for 20 years, although they have put forward as their present desideratum a period of 40 years.

Our representative put forward a paper yesterday afternoon containing the suggestion that if the Treaty was made for a period of twenty years or more it might be advisable to include a provision that probably at the half-way mark the signatories would consult at the request of any of them to determine whether, in the light of the progress made by the United Nations and its organs in the maintenance of international peace and security, it should be revised or terminated.

In the view of the Working Group generally this idea had merit. Most of the members, however, wanted some time to consider the exact wording of the provision and the suggestion will be discussed at a later meeting.

(c) Our representative also put forward a paper containing three provisions which might be included in Article 10, as follows:

- (a) Registration with the United Nations
- (b) Authenticity of texts
- (c) Paragraph providing for signature.

The majority of the Working Group thought that a provision for registration with the United Nations was not necessary.

The Working Group agreed that something along the lines of (b) and (c) would have to be included and it was thought that this could be done by the Group drafting the final texts.