

As a major focus of the Third Review Conference, it is worthwhile examining the current Article VI debate. In the past five years, since the last review, there has been no substantial progress on any nuclear arms control and disarmament issue. In fact, the nuclear arms race is proceeding at an ever-increasing pace in both its qualitative and quantitative aspects. In addition, the trilateral comprehensive test ban talks have been abandoned.

Although the resumption of bilateral negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union in Geneva has been a welcome development, the road ahead is likely to be a long and arduous one. The U.S. and the USSR have set themselves high goals for the Geneva negotiations: the prevention of an arms race in space and its termination on earth; the limitation and reduction of nuclear arms; and the strengthening of strategic stability, leading ultimately to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Although the objectives have been agreed on, the views of the two sides on how to arrive at their shared goals differ dramatically.

In the multilateral arms control fora, forward movement is halting and prospects for real progress or agreements seem remote.

-- The Conference on Disarmament, which recently finished its Spring session, offers some opportunities for progress on arms control, but not, unfortunately, in areas related to nuclear matters.