

*Issues at the 1990 Review Conference*

Under the presidency of Ambassador Oswaldo de Rivero of Peru, the 1990 Review Conference followed the procedures developed at previous conferences. The Conference created three Main Committees. The first dealt with issues arising from Articles I, II and VI of the Treaty. For many of the non-possessing states, especially the Third World countries, the key question before Main Committee I was the extent to which the NWS had met their obligation to achieve "effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament..." In addition, this Committee also dealt with the Nigerian proposal for a treaty providing "negative security assurances" to non-nuclear states, and issues arising from the potential proliferation of nuclear weapon states.

Main Committee II dealt with issues concerning the safeguard programme administered by the IAEA, and with the potential to expand the scope of safeguards. Main Committee III dealt with the provisions of the Treaty providing access to all aspects of peaceful uses of nuclear energy to non-possessing states, especially those in the Third World. In addition to these three committees, the Drafting Committee also played a key role at the Conference. In the final week, when the Main Committee reports are submitted, it is the drafting committee which is responsible for producing a Final Document for approval by the plenary meeting of the Conference.

During the four weeks of the Review Conference a great deal of positive work was accomplished in the Main Committees. In brief, some of the key elements were:

- promising discussions in Main Committee III in which several supplier states, including Belgium, Italy and the Soviet Union, associated themselves with drafting language which would have made all of their exports of nuclear materials conditional on the acceptance of the recipient of "full scope safeguards;"
- agreement on measures to strengthen the IAEA safeguards;
- agreed draft formulations concerning armed attacks on nuclear facilities, the desirability of nuclear weapon-free zones, technical assistance to developing countries, a demand that Israel and South Africa submit all of their nuclear facilities to IAEA safeguards, and a variety of other issues of importance to the reinforcement of the NPT regime;
- an agreement that the nuclear weapon states, while submitting unilateral negative security assurances as they had done in the past, would consult on the draft treaty proposed by Nigeria and other states.

These agreements were overshadowed, however, by a continuing dispute at the Review Conference about the fulfilment of the obligations of the NWS under Article VI. Throughout the Conference, the United States and the United Kingdom, strongly supported by the Western group, argued that the five years past had produced great progress in arms control. They pointed to the