

atmosphere and disarmament climate were relatively hopeful. The SALT II treaty had been recently signed, and promising trilateral (UK, USA, USSR) negotiations for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty were still officially taking place.

Despite marathon sessions of informal negotiations, the conference ended without a consensus final document because of lack of agreement on issues relating to nuclear disarmament, particularly on a Comprehensive Test Ban. While consensus was reached on texts dealing with international safeguards, the sharing of the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the posing of fullscope safeguards as a condition for nuclear cooperation (a goal that had been strongly pursued by Canada and other like-minded countries), there was no agreement on a final document. This was a major setback and has been interpreted by some as meaning that the Second Review Conference was a failure.

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As we begin the final approach to the Third Review, opening August 27, the outlook is uncertain. We can be sure that once again there will be vigorous debate on the perceived failure of the nuclear powers to implement their obligations under Article VI. As in 1980, there is a very real danger that a lack of tangible progress relating to Article VI will hold hostage any agreement on other matters relating to safeguards and international nuclear cooperation.