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*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, April 12, 1962

DISARMAMENT: TALKS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF UNCOMMITTED
COUNTRIES ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE CONFERENCE

Carrying out your instructions, Mr. Ignatieff has had talks with the Ambassadors of Brazil, Mexico, Sweden and the U.A.R. and the High Commissioner for India. Each of them was told of the importance we attach to the eight neutrals coming forward this week with a concrete and carefully reasoned proposal which might serve as a compromise on the question of verifying compliance with a nuclear test ban. Emphasis was also laid on the importance of registering some initial measure of agreement at the Geneva Conference on other matters such as the drafting of the preamble on disarmament and a declaration on the prevention of war propaganda.

2. The most forthcoming with their support for our point of view were the Mexican Ambassador and the Chargé d'Affaires of Brazil. Both expressed complete agreement about the importance of the eight putting forward a compromise proposal this week which would be sufficiently fair and objective that it might have a chance of acceptance by both sides. They were both also in agreement on the importance of pressing forward with renewed efforts to reach some measure of agreement on other matters before the Conference.

3. The U.A.R. Ambassador, although entirely sympathetic to our point of view, was concerned whether his Government would be willing to take an initiative in trying to break the stalemate on nuclear tests which might be interpreted as being partial by one side or the other. When Ignatieff assured him that what was contemplated was a united initiative to put forward a compromise proposal by the eight, he was much happier about the idea and said that he would report our views to his Government and keep us informed of any views which he may receive from Cairo. We urged upon him the importance that the compromise should be clearly objective and impartial and that the eight should insist that it should not be rejected out of hand by the Three.

4. The Indian High Commissioner and the Swedish Ambassador seemed a little more pessimistic about the prospect of the eight achieving any success for a compromise proposal which might bring about agreement on a nuclear test ban. Mr. Chakravarty recalled that his Government had already sponsored an appeal to the nuclear powers to desist from nuclear testing pending negotiations on a nuclear test ban treaty in a resolution adopted by the General Assembly. It now seemed to him that the United States Government was determined to go ahead in disregard of the opinion of the uncommitted countries.