

Ad Hoc Committee on Conventional Weapons:

After an artificially delayed start, due to Soviet insistence on a Russian language version of the report of the Lugano Conference of Weapons Experts, the committee witnessed a dilatory debate of each weapon category initiated mainly by the proponents of restrictions or prohibitions in use of certain weapons and directed primarily at the Eastern and Western weapon-states. The only new developments were a Norwegian paper on incendiaries, a revised Dutch paper on the same subject, a similarly revised United Kingdom paper on mines and booby-traps and some refinements in Swedish thinking on small calibre projectiles. The committee concluded with nothing decided about intersessional follow-up and with a Canadian-suggested comparative table of existing proposals as its only meagre achievement. However, several non-aligned delegates have warned that next year more will be expected and demanded of the committee or else they will seek to frustrate efforts in the other main committees in development of the two Protocols.

The third session was therefore limited in its results, but valuable nevertheless for several worthwhile gains and for sharpening the focus on the difficult issues yet to be resolved. The Swiss Government, supported by all, is determined the fourth session of the Conference should be the last.