

understanding the relationship of environmental law to sustainable development was a fundamental issue for the 1992 Conference. The US withdrew its proposal.

Other proposals included addressing the reasons why countries have placed reservations on the agreements and the reasons for the delay between signature and ratification of the agreements. This last proposal, though initially well received, was considered problematic by the UNCED Secretariat representative because he would then have to examine government reports and parliamentary transcripts to determine why each Party took so long to ratify a given agreement.

The most difficult discussion concerned a proposal to rearrange some of the agreements contained in PC/77 into a new section called "environment and [international security][armed conflict]." The US stated that it had two problems with the proposal: 1) some of the agreements listed in PC/77 were nuclear agreements, and unless they had specific sections or protocols dealing with environmental protection, they should be deleted from the list; and 2) the US could not accept in principle a separate section on environment and war because this essentially was a political/security matter, not an environmental matter and thus had no place in the Survey.

The EC, however, was adamant that such a section should be included in the Survey, thus opening a debate which is not yet concluded. The surprising aspect of this discussion was the silence of EC Member States, France and UK -- both Permanent Members of the Security Council -- who seemed to favour such an analysis of "war and peace" instruments. The US insisted the EC was being inconsistent with positions taken by the Security Council and the G-7 London Summit and the delegate stated he would take this up with capitals.

The Secretariat has been requested to revise its paper, leaving in some square brackets, such as the reference to environment and war. It will be attached to a Chairman's summary of the deliberations in Working Group III. Although the summary is not negotiable, the revised Survey is and thus is likely to be changed some more before the PrepCom is concluded.