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TO PRESERVE OUTER SPACE FROM CONFLICT

The following is a statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard C. Green, to the 17-Nation Disarmament Conference in Geneva on March 27:

"In my statement of March 19, I referred to seven areas in which there are elements common to both the United States and the Soviet disarmament proposals. I suggested that this conference should try to achieve early agreement on concrete measures in those fields.

"Certain of the seven points which I mentioned, such as measures relating to nuclear vehicles and conventional armaments, should properly be dealt with in the context of general disarmament. However, measures such as those dealing with outer space and surprise attack, we believe, should be dealt with in the special committee which has been set up to discuss collateral or initial measures.

"Several initial or collateral measures have been referred to by representatives around this table. In the opinion of my delegation, it would be useful to begin with the question of outer space. I suggest this area as a point of departure for two reasons. First, all governments are agreed that it is of overriding importance to ensure that the rapid development of science in this field will not be used for destructive purposes. Second, there are clear provisions common to both the United States and the Soviet plans which should enable us to reach agreement on a measure which would help to achieve this goal.

BEST AREA FOR CO-OPERATION

"For example, in Article 14 of the Soviet draft treaty it is provided that placing into orbit or station-

ing in outer space of special devices capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction should be prohibited. The United States plan contains similar proposals in Section E of Stage I. In the same section of the United States plan, provision is also made for advance notification of launchings of space vehicles and missiles. The Soviet draft treaty contains an almost identical proposal in Article 14, and my delegation considers that it would be of great significance to give formal recognition to the large measure of agreement which already exists on these two points in the United States and the Soviet disarmament plans. I would point out further that there has been quite widespread agreement on this question in other forums, for example in the United Nations Committee and in exchanges of messages between President Kennedy and Chairman Khrushchov. Today the field of outer space is probably the most encouraging field for agreement among the nations.

PROPOSED DECLARATION

"In our opinion, it would be desirable to set out these two requirements in the form of a declaration by all members of this conference, to which other states could later subscribe. What we have in mind might be expressed along the lines of the following draft declaration; 'The Governments of Brazil, the Peoples Republic of Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Ethiopia, India, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, the Peoples Republic of Poland, the Peoples Republic of Romania, Sweden, the Soviet Union, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom and the United States, desiring to

(Over)