

upon it. Home replied that in any case the discontinuance of Soviet activity had removed the need for drastic reaction for the time being.

6. As to conditions in Berlin, Home told me that he had formed the judgment from his recent personal visit that morale was good, the Western Germans were determined to support West Berlin with investment funds and other economic measures, but he did not repeat not deny the possibility of a long term decline in viability over the next ten years.

7. As to the possibility of a summit meeting of Heads of Government, Home told me that Rusk had told Gromyko that it might be possible to have such a meeting provided there were agreement at least in principle on some of the broader issues involved on the question of Berlin and Germany as well as on access. Later we were told by Kohler (USA) that so far there had been no repeat no response.

[H.C.] GREEN

22.

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*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État adjoint aux Affaires extérieures*  
*Memorandum by Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], April 3, 1962

DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Ambassador Merchant discussed this subject with the Minister when he called on him this morning.

2. Mr. Merchant was appreciative of Canada's role in the meetings. Mr. Green in turn spoke very favourably of the performance of the United States Delegation, particularly the patience displayed by Mr. Rusk and Mr. Dean.

3. Mr. Merchant indicated that the United States side were anxious to be flexible about virtually all details but were not prepared to make concessions on points of substance that really affect the security of the United States and of Western countries generally, for example they felt that they had to insist on inspection and verification for security reasons but they were quite willing to be flexible on the nature of the arrangements, even going so far as to indicate a readiness to accept random sampling techniques.

4. Mr. Merchant intimated that any dissatisfaction which the United States side had felt over the Canadian proposal regarding outer space related to the fact that the text had not been shown to them in advance (and also that the proposal included no provision for verification). The Minister insisted that the substance of the Canadian proposition was in line with agreed views of the four Western countries and in general terms had been made known to the United States side ahead of time. Mr. Green thought it was most important to attempt to reach agreement on some matter upon which there seemed to be little disagreement. It was only by recording agreements that some progress might be made towards solution of the really difficult problems. In this connection, Mr. Green spoke highly of the role of the 8 "neutrals." He thought that they were anxious to help the negotiations along. It was amazing to him that the Russians had accepted such a good list of countries. Mr. Green hoped that the United States would consider carefully any proposal put up by any member of this group. Mr. Merchant noted that the Swedish proposal presented serious danger and could not be accepted by the United States. Mr. Green re-emphasized the importance of giving a fair hearing to any suggestions from such a country as Sweden.

5. At several points in the conversation the Minister reiterated that he thought it most important for the United States to avoid initiating a new series of nuclear tests. Mr. Green