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Programme for Promoting Nuclear Non-Proliferation, Newsbrief 1, Outline

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Summary:

Outlines plans to update members on activities of the group, report on NGOs in related areas as well as proliferation and nonproliferation activities around the world.

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Programme for Promoting Nuclear Non-Proliferation

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October 1987

PPNN NEWSBRIEF 1

Dear Core Group Member,

I. Introduction

When the Core Group of the Programme for Promoting Nuclear Non-Proliferation met for the first time, in June 1987, it decided that there should be a trial production of an informal newsbrief that should be circulated among members of the Group. This newsbrief would report on the work of non-governmental groups in related areas, highlight topical developments of interest to the project, include copies of press cuttings on relevant issues made available by members of the Core Group and draw attention to publications and articles having a bearing on its work.

In July I sent you some more specific suggestions on possible contents of the Newsbrief and on approaches to be adopted in its preparation. My suggestions pertained particularly to the presentation of the "topical developments", on which I thought I should seek some guidance before actually launching the first issue. So far, five members have responded to my letter, generally concurring with my suggestions. There were several comments on details of presentation, which it is easy to take into account. One member (Ian Smart) prefers using a different set of headings in the categorization of the items to be presented. I see merit in his proposals but do not wish to prejudice the matter without giving the Core Group an opportunity to discuss it. To that end, the relevant section of his letter is attached.

Ian Smart also notes that we have to decide on the frequency of the Newsbrief and suggests that it should be at least quarterly. That does seem appropriate but I suspect that the actual frequency may have to depend not only on the availability of material but on the time involved in preparing each issue. There should be no dearth of material, especially on the work of non-governmental groups active in the area, topical developments and publications, but it is necessary for Core Group members to provide John Simpson and/or myself with such material whenever they run across something they feel should be included. We also have our sources, but we lack the means, nor do we have the time, to scout around for items to include, and it is only through an exchange of contributions among the members of the Core Group that the Newsbrief can play its role as a networking mechanism.

The present first issue of the Newsbrief, therefore, beside being a trial as to form and content, is a request to members to provide me with comments and newsitems which they consider appropriate for inclusion in future issues.

II. Disclaimer

It is understood that the Newsbrief is a communication from the chairman of the Core Group of the Programme for Promoting Nuclear Non-Proliferation to the members of that Group. Its purpose is to acquaint the members with developments which, in the chairman's opinion, are relevant to the aims and activities of the Programme. In accordance with its purpose of assisting in the networking function of the Core Group the Newsbrief also contains items of information individual members of the Group wish to share with the other members. Unless expressly stated, the inclusion of any item in the Newsbrief does not imply the agreement of members with its substance or with its relevance to the Programme.

III. Non-Governmental Groups Active in Related Areas

There are a number of non-governmental bodies working in areas of direct interest to PPNN. The Newsbrief is to include information on the activities of such bodies but it is not clear how this should be done. On the one hand, the organizations concerned tend to give exhaustive reports on their activities which, if included, would more than fill the Newsbrief. On the other hand, in simply presenting an extract of available material, one runs the risk of not doing justice to the activity. For the present, the Newsbrief contends itself with listing bodies and projects with which a working relationship has been, or is in the process of being, established (including projects with which members of the Core Group are actively involved):

- The United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA/USA): Ann Florini and Tobi Gati; 300 E. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017 - outreach activities in support of non-proliferation.
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: L. Spector; 11 Dupont Circle, N.W. Washington D.C. 20036 - publication project Nuclear Proliferation Today.
- University of Wisconsin: Gary Milhollin; c/o Natural Resources Defense Council, 1350 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. 20006 - Nuclear Non-Proliferation: Toward a Strategy for the 1990s.
- Nuclear Control Institute: Paul Leventhal and Milton Hoenig; 1000 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 704; Washington D.C. 20036 - prevention of nuclear terrorism and the promotion of non-proliferation (non-use of plutonium).

- Centre for European Policy Studies: (Peter Ludlow), Peter Lomax (with Peace Research Institute Frankfurt); Rue Ducale 33, 1000 Brussels, Belgium - European Non-Proliferation Questions.
- Peace Research Institute Frankfurt: Harald Mueller; Leimenrode 29, 6000 Frankfurt am Main 1, Federal Republic of Germany - European Non-Proliferation Questions.
- Institute for Resource and Security Studies: Gordon Thompson; 27 Ellsworth Avenue, Cambridge MA 02139 - Proliferation Reform Project.
- Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament: Tariq Rauf and Marie-France Desjardins; 151 Slater Street, Suite 710, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P 5H3 - Non-Proliferation Project.

IV. Topical developments

Introductory Notes:

We are not yet using the kind of the computerized data base that should eventually provide the major input for this section of the Newsbrief. To start the ball rolling nevertheless, the following items are selected from the modest collection of hard-copy information material at hand. As suggested in my July letter, the items presented start around the time PPNN was launched, i.e. early 1987. In selecting items I have assumed that members of the Core Group - who, presumably, are the only readers of the Newsbrief at this stage - stay abreast of major developments relevant to PPNN, such as progress in arms limitation and disarmament negotiations. I also suppose that as a rule one should avoid reporting on events in flux, such as ongoing negotiations of which the outcome is still uncertain. Lastly, I should stress that the material presented is selected by me exclusively from information at my disposal and that I have not yet received any requests from members for the inclusion of specific items. Dr. Warren Donnelly is most helpful in supplying me with newspaper cuttings, extracts from Congressional records and relevant reports; much of the material below is based on information he has provided.

a. NPT Events

On 21 September 1987 (the opening day of the 31st Regular Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency) the Permanent Mission in Vienna of South Africa issued the following press release:

"The following statement was issued today by South African State President P.W.Botha in Cape Town.

'The Republic of South Africa is prepared to commence negotiations with each of the nuclear weapon states on the possibility of signing the non-proliferation treaty. At the same time the Republic of South Africa will consider

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including in these negotiations safeguards on its installations subject to the NPT conditions. The nature of these negotiations will depend on the outcome of the 31st General Conference of the IAEA which is being held as from 21 September.

' South Africa hopes that it will soon be able to sign the NPT and has decided to open discussions with others to this end. Any safeguards agreement which might subsequently be negotiated with the IAEA would naturally be along the same lines as, and in conformity with, agreements with other NPT signatories."

A copy of the resolution adopted by the General Conference with respect to South Africa is attached.

In the general debate during the 31st regular session of the Agency's General Conference, Nigeria, a member of whose government had been reported recently to have expressed the intention to develop nuclear weapons, announced that it had decided to conclude a safeguards agreement with the Agency, pursuant to its commitments under the NPT.

b. Other Non-Proliferation Developments

- The Government of Chile has requested the IAEA to apply safeguards in relation to the supply by the People's Republic of China of uranium hexafluoride (20% enriched) to be used in MTR-type fuel elements (IAEA Document GOV/2317, 14 August 1987).
- The US Administration decides not to sign the protocols to the Treaty of Rarotonga (New York Times, February 5, 1987).
- Voters in Palau (US Trust Territory in the Pacific) decide to waive a constitutional prohibition against allowing nuclear weapons and technology into that territory (Far Eastern Economic Review, 6 August 1987; New York Times, August 7, 1987).
- President Alfonsin of Argentina and Brazilian President Sarney together visit the former's uranium enrichment facility at Pilcaniyeu, reinforcing hopes that a mutual inspection system can be worked out between these States (New York Times, July 22, 1987; Washington Post, August 14, 1987).

c. Nuclear Trade

- Argentina:
 - Conclusion of agreement for nuclear co-operation with Iran: development of a new core for the Teheran research reactor to allow it to work with 20% enrichment; help in completion of 1300 MWe power reactor at Bushehr; training;
 - Negotiations on supply of research reactor and fuel to Albania;
 - Offer to Indonesia to overhaul its Triga reactor; talks about supply of "Argos" power reactor;
 - Talks on nuclear cooperation with Algeria and Morocco;

- Training of Cuban reactor operators. (Nuclear Engineering International, July 1987; Washington Post, August 14, 1987).
- France denies having committed itself to rebuilding the Osirak reactor in Iraq, which was damaged in the Israeli air raid in 1981 (New York Times, August 6, 1987).
- India and the USSR are negotiating an agreement on the provision by the latter of two 440 MWe PWRs under safeguards limited to the plant and supplied nuclear material (Nuclear Engineering International, September 1987).
- Pakistan: a summary of activities allegedly intended to provide Pakistan with the means to enrich uranium to bomb-grade level and to manufacture weapons is attached.
- U.S.-Japan: completion of negotiations for the revision of the bilateral agreement for nuclear co-operation. The revised agreement is reported to contain a blanket authority for Japan to reprocess nuclear fuel covered by the agreement and to use the resulting plutonium without the case-by-case approval previously required (Issue Brief of July 21, 1987 by Warren H. Donnelly, Congressional Research Service).

d. IAEA Developments

(i) General

- The text of a resolution adopted by the General Conference at its 31st regular session (by 60 votes in favour, 20 against and 4 abstentions. South Africa was among the states not present) postponing a decision to suspend South Africa as a member of the Agency, is attached.
- The text of a resolution adopted by the General Conference at its 31st regular session (by 48 votes in favour, 29 against and 12 abstentions - 12 member states being absent, including Israel) demanding that Israel place all its nuclear facilities under safeguards, asking the Director General to report on the matter and deciding to put the item "Israeli nuclear capabilities and threat" on the agenda of the 32nd regular session, in 1988, is attached.

(ii) Safeguards

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e. Developments Relating to Article IV

- "Argentine Nuclear Effort Running Out Of Steam": article of August 14, 1987 by the Washington Post Foreign Service, about a slowdown in Argentina's peaceful nuclear energy programme. Disputes about the price of indigenous yellowcake (Nuclear Fuel, August 10, 1987). Reports of imports of Chinese UF6 (Nuclear Fuel, August 24, 1987)

f. Developments Relating to Article VI

- On 15 September 1987, the Foreign Minister of the USSR and the Secretary of State of the USA signed an agreement to set up nuclear risk reduction centres in their respective capitals, to keep a round-the-clock watch on "events with the potential to lead to nuclear incidents". It is subsequently announced that agreement has been reached in principle to eliminate all land-based (intermediate-range) missiles with ranges of 500 to 5000 kilometres. The two governments also commit themselves to begin stage-by-stage talks leading to a ban on nuclear testing (various official and press sources).
- The United States is studying the feasibility of converting a mothballed commercial reactor into a production facility for tritium and plutonium, thus departing from the principle established under the Atoms for Peace Program to keep civilian and military operations separate (New York Times, February 21 and March 18, 1987).
- The US air force is exploring the use of small nuclear reactors for the generation of electrical power "in a protracted nuclear war" (New York Times, March 30, 1987).
- The US Department of Defense has decided to redeploy the B53 hydrogen bomb, which is said to be more than six times as powerful as the most destructive bomb or warhead now in the American nuclear arsenal (New York Times, August 5, 1987).

g. Proliferation Developments

- Brazil: President Sarney announces a "secret military programme" of \$ 1 billion a year under which scientists at Sao Paulo have without any outside help achieved "complete domination" of the ultracentrifuge process of enriching uranium. Enrichment is said to be limited at present to 1.2 % but a new installation, operating under the supervision of the Brazilian navy, will "soon achieve 20% enrichment" in "industrial quantities". (New York Times, September 6; Chicago Tribune, September 7; The Independent, 9 September; Washington Post, September 10; New Scientist, 17 September - all 1987).
- Libya: Pakistan is reported to have made a nuclear weapon (called the "Islamic bomb") available to Libya (Tribune de Geneve, 14 September 1987, referring to a report from the Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Tel Aviv, as cited by IAEA Daily Press Review no. 176, 23 September 1987).
- Pakistan: see attached summary as referred to under item c.
- India: India is far ahead of Pakistan in its "bomb programme", has a programme to develop a hydrogen bomb and was about to conduct an underground test of a deliverable bomb in 1984, when it was deterred from doing so by diplomatic pressure (Foreign Report/The Economist, June 25 1987). India is not

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building an enrichment plant (Nucleonics Week, July 23, 1987). India is stockpiling "large amounts of weapons-grade plutonium" and its government "is believed to be building a uranium enrichment plant at Ratanahalli, near Mysore in the state of Karnataka" (The Economist, September 5, 1987). Prime Minister Gandhi rejects a US proposal for a treaty with Pakistan banning nuclear weapons (The New York Times, October 11, 1987)

- Israel: reports on the successful testing of Jericho II intermediate-range ballistic missile over a distance of 500 miles (International Defense Review, as quoted in New York Times, July 22 and 29; Soviet reactions in Hebrew-language Tass programme: Washington Post, August 1, 1987). The Vanunu trial has had to be postponed until at least December, 1987, due to illness of the presiding judge (personal information from Israeli representative in Vienna).

IV. Books and Articles

New Issues

Lawrence Scheinman : The International Atomic Energy Agency and World Nuclear Order (Washington D.C., Resources for the Future, October 1987)

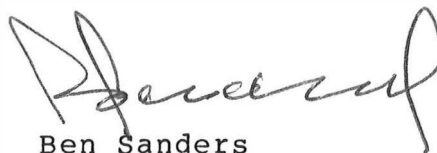
Julio Cesar Carasales : El Desarme de los Desarmados; Argentina y el Tratado do No Proliferacion de Armas Nucleares (Buenos Aires, Editorial Pleamar, Spring 1987)

John Simpson (ed.) :

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As you see, most of the material that should be included in the last section is still lacking. For this section in particular one has to rely on contributions from members, which I have not yet received. Meanwhile I thought it best to send this out without delay, even in its present incomplete form, so that it may be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Core Group.

With best regards,



Ben Sanders

NEWSBRIEF 1
ANNEXExtract from Ian Smart's letter dated 7 August 1987

...Coming to your suggested categorization, on pages 3 and 4, I sympathise with the impossibility of avoiding all duplication or ambiguity. But I do find that your initial suggestion involves the risk of rather too much overlap. There are also places where you may risk carrying too far our accepted preoccupation with the NPT, as against other instruments or expressions of non-proliferation policy: e.g., by referring in what may seem an exclusive spirit to "NPT events", "Article IV" or "Article VI". For my own part, I should prefer headings on the following lines:

1. Multilateral non-proliferation agreements [i.e., including NPT, Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, etc.]
 2. Safeguards and safeguard agreements [including activities under Euratom or OPANAL auspices as well as IAEA]
 3. Other international agency developments
 4. Other bilateral agreements on non-proliferation and safeguards
 5. Nuclear technology, power and fuel cycle developments
 6. Nuclear trade and co-operation [including 'Article IV matters']
 7. Nuclear arms control [including 'Article VI matters']
 8. Miscellanea
- ...