

Notes & quotes

2003 NPT Preparatory Committee

States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) held their Second Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meeting for the 2005 Review Conference in Geneva, from 28 April to 9 May 2003, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Laszló Mólnár of Hungary.

The meeting took place at a time when issues of non-proliferation and disarmament were attracting increased global attention. It addressed, *inter alia*, issues of non-compliance, nuclear disarmament, non-strategic nuclear weapons, security assurances, safeguard agreements and the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, both in a general debate and in specific cluster debates.

The significant link between the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the NPT as expressed by the NPT Review Conferences (1980, 1995) and the Thirteen Steps to nuclear disarmament agreed upon by the NPT Review Conference in 2000, was also underlined in Ambassador Mólnár's Factual Summary of the 2003 PrepCom.



PALAIS DES NATIONS, UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA, THE VENUE OF THE 2003 NPT PREPCOM MEETING

Courtesy of United Nations Office of Geneva

Ambassador Mólnár, who had consulted with key delegations before issuing the Factual Summary, expressed strong support for the CTBT and underscored the importance of early entry into force of the CTBT in paragraph 14:

“States which had not ratified the Treaty, especially those remaining 13 States whose ratification was necessary ... for its entry-into-force, were urged to do so without delay. Strong hope was

expressed that more countries will sign and ratify the Treaty between now and the 2003 Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force to be held on 3-5 September in Vienna. States parties reaffirmed the importance of maintaining a moratorium on nuclear-weapon-test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and noted the progress made by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in establishing the international monitoring system.” ■



“We believe that the recent international debate in the United Nations Security Council, including statements by its Permanent Members, on weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, underlined international concern about the legitimacy, possession and possible use of such weapons. These statements should provide further impetus to international effort to de-legitimise all nuclear weapons and to hasten international efforts towards nuclear disarmament. These statements moreover underline our basic belief that the only real guarantee against the use of any weapons of mass destruction anywhere, including nuclear weapons, is their complete elimination and the assurance that they will never be used or produced again.”

Hon. Marian Hobbs, Minister of Disarmament of New Zealand. Statement on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition at the NPT Preparatory Committee meeting, 28 April 2003