

BACKGROUND PAPER

Brief Summary--Current Status
Geneva Test Ban Negotiations

There is before the conference, the United States proposal of February 11, as well as the Soviet Union's counter proposal. The conference has in recent weeks pretty much confined itself to a discussion of these two matters.

We have indicated to the Soviet Union that that portion of its proposal dealing with the question of establishing criteria for events eligible for on-site inspection is generally acceptable to the United States. However, we have pointed out that other aspects of the Soviet proposal, namely--that we must accept a comprehensive agreement, and an on-site inspection quota based on a purely political decision--are not acceptable.

With respect to the latter two points, we have repeatedly stated that a comprehensive ban on all tests, under the control system outlined by the experts at the 1958 Geneva Technical Conference, at this time, would mean a ban without adequate safeguards over small underground explosions. We have, as well, made clear that any quota for on-site inspections must be based on scientific facts and detection capabilities.

We are still awaiting the specific views of the Soviet Union on our proposal.



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