

AIRGRAM

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

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File

INFO : American Embassy MOSCOW
US Mission GENEVA

JUL 3 8 24 AM 1968

RS/AN
ANALYSIS BRANCH

W. W. ...
necessary
1700/IR -
m. Wain

FROM : AmEmbassy LONDON

DATE: July 2, 1968

SUBJECT : Signature of NPT

REF : London 10441

DISTO

Attached for the record are copies of the statements delivered by the Prime Minister and by Ambassador Bruce at the signing of the Nonproliferation Treaty in London on 1 July.

BRUCE

Reps at SEC
Enclosures: As stated

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U. S. ARMS CONTROL
AID
DISARMAMENT AGENCY

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In Out

Drafted by:

PM:RISpiers:mal 7/1/68

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PM:Ronald I. Spiers

Clearances:

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PRESS RELEASE: Embargoed for automatic release
at 1100 B.S.T. on 1st July, 1968.

TEXT OF SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PRIME MINISTER
AT THE SIGNATURE OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY
MONDAY JULY 1, 1968.

Your Excellencies, Gentlemen:

This is an historic occasion. I have no hesitation in describing this Treaty, which is being signed today in Moscow and Washington as well as here in London, as the most important measure of arms control and disarmament on which agreement has yet been reached. If steps had not been taken to prevent nuclear weapons spreading first to one country, then to another, within a few years the whole world would have been darkened by a black cloud of fear. The purpose of this Treaty is to dispel that gathering cloud, and to ensure that the vast forces locked in the atom are devoted to the welfare of mankind, rather than to its destruction.

It is nearly seven years since the idea of a non-proliferation treaty was first conceived. During the long negotiations since then, cynics have said that the idea would never become a reality; that time was working against us. Certainly, if we had not now approved this Treaty, we might never have been given another chance to halt the spread of nuclear weapons; and the cynics would have been proved right. But, as it is, we have chosen the road of wisdom. It will lead, we confidently expect, to continuing advance towards further measures of arms control and disarmament.

For this success we are greatly indebted to that patient and expert body, the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee. The Treaty is also proof that in a matter of

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the highest importance East and West can work together towards the common goal of world security. We all know how much the Treaty owes to the United States and the Soviet Union, whose distinguished representatives have just signed this Treaty. And I pay tribute in particular to the tireless work and skilled diplomacy of Mr. Foster and Mr. Roachin, the co-Chairmen of the E.N.D.C., who can be rightly proud of the success with which their labours have at last been crowned.

But I would not wish this occasion to pass without mentioning also the persistence and the skill of our own negotiating team led so ably over the past few years, by my Rt. Hon. Friends Mr. Mulley and Lord Chalfont whose presence at this ceremony we all welcome.

When the Government was formed nearly 4 years ago Lord Chalfont was appointed Britain's first ever Minister of Disarmament with full time responsibility for working with other Governments, first towards the achievement we are celebrating today and then to work for further measures of arms control leading to the final goal of general and complete disarmament.

I believe that Britain was able to play a significant part in helping towards today's achievement as a result of the work, under the direction of the Foreign Secretary, of the two Ministers who have worked so tirelessly for the historic moment we are celebrating today.

Your Excellencies, this is not a Treaty for which just two or three countries are responsible. It exists because it reflects and enshrines mankind's universal and

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NARA Date 7/1/08

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fundamental desire for peace and security. Every Government whose representative supported the Treaty in the United Nations General Assembly and voted for the resolution can feel that it has contributed to the Treaty we are signing today; and the many representatives present at this ceremony have the special distinction of demonstrating their support for the Treaty by signing it on the day that it is opened for signature.

I am sure that I voice a sentiment that all of you will echo when I say that Her Majesty's Government will continue, with renewed confidence and renewed hope to work for further advances in disarmament - confident and hopeful that we shall in the future be able to look back on this occasion as a major step towards a better and safer world.

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UNCLASSIFIEDSTATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR BRUCE

The treaty we have signed today is proof that the despairing generalities so often voiced about man's inability to meet the challenges of his environment are not always correct.

It represents a concerted effort, in the words of my Secretary of State, to keep the nuclear beast caged.

It is the product of over six years of consideration and arduous negotiations by our governments. There were many times when it seemed the end result now achieved might be beyond the reach of mutual understanding.

This accord is a testimonial to enlightened persistence, and to faith in the conception that despite many variations of opinion, mutual good will and purpose can reconcile conflicting national interests.

The lesson of the Non-Proliferation Treaty is, essentially, one of optimism and hope: that man indeed can control the terrifying forces he has created.

This covenant joins a series of its predecessors -- those establishing the International Atomic Energy Agency, The Antarctic Treaty, the Limited Test Ban Agreement, and the Outer Space Treaty -- to constitute another important landmark in postwar history.

The United States fervently desires that these historic agreements will before long be joined by others calculated further to abate the threat presented by modern arms to world stability and world peace.

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