

Programme for Promoting Nuclear Non-Proliferation

OPENING REMARKS TO THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CORE GROUP

Jersey, 12 June 1987

I feel extremely privileged to be the one to welcome the members of the Core Group of the Programme for Promoting Nuclear Non-Proliferation to the first meeting of the Group and to have the task of calling that meeting to order.

There are a number of reasons why I am so pleased to be in that position, among which there are two I want to stress:

In the first place, there is the purpose of our project: to do what we can to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime in general and the non-proliferation treaty in particular, and to that end to help make the next review conference a success; and

the composition of this Group. There are several projects under way with the purpose of helping to strengthen non-proliferation. This is done in a variety of ways: through conferences, studies, publications, lectures, training and what not: all means about which we shall have to talk here, because they belong to the arsenal of activities we should use in our work. But in one aspect this Group - and our project - is unique, I believe, and that is in its really international approach. The composition of this Group reflects that international character. It should also make that international approach possible. And I therefore welcome you with all the more warmth. The fact that I may count a number of you among my personal friends adds to my feeling of happiness that I am allowed to preside over your meeting.

Parenthetically: I assume that I am so allowed; the project description submitted to prospective funders says so, and I can only go along with it - particularly since I am one of its authors.

But seriously: the two principal reasons for my pleasure in sitting here are equally reasons for me to feel a sense of awe at the responsibility laid on me: this job has to be done well, not just because it should measure up to your expectations, but because of its substantive importance. The purpose of our work is so important that it demands all we can give to realize it.

I am extremely happy to see you all here. John Simpson and I - and I trust you know who the two of us are and what we are doing here: the project description which should have been sent to each of you contains our biodata - wish to express our appreciation for the effort you have made to come. Several of you are here, I understand, in place, or on behalf of, persons who had been asked to participate but are unable to attend this meeting. Several other persons who had definitely or tentatively accepted to join the Group are unable to participate in this meeting; I trust they will be able to join us next time.

Let me add a third reason why I believe this exercise is unique. It has, as I have said, a hugely important purpose and it follows a widely international approach. But it does so on an essentially non-governmental basis. Obviously, some of you are government officials and most of us maintain close relations with our governments, which both gives us an entree to those governments and enables us to give authoritative presentations of their attitudes. But you are here in your personal capacities and that lends a degree of flexibility one may not have when acting strictly as a government representative or for an intergovernmental institution. I did not want to mention this point as a cause of pleasure as, having just stopped being an international civil servant, overloud jubilation at one's liberation might be unseemly.

As you may have noted in studying the list of Core Group members and their backgrounds and affiliations, the composition is not yet optimal. Taking the consideration of national origin, there are definitely some people missing, especially from the developing world. We have no women on the Group. Industry is not adequately represented... I hope that we shall be able to discuss this point in due course and get your advice.

There are many points to be discussed, several of which are vital to the success and the purpose of the exercise. I have taken the liberty of raising some of those points in a long letter of last April, by way of a sort of tentative annotated agenda.

That agenda was not complete, neither were the notes it contained. There have since been a number of developments which will surely arise for discussion. We should in the first place discuss the organization of our work. Dr. Simpson and I have some suggestions in that regard.... Before we go into the procedural details, however, may I ask if there is anyone who wishes to take the floor at this point?