

**Discussion Paper: PPNN Core Group Meetings and Conferences**

**1. Timing and Schedule**

For planning and budgeting purposes it is desirable to agree on dates and venues for the core group meetings and the conferences as early as possible in order that hotel and other reservations can be made. The following schedule of dates and venues is suggested as the basis for discussion: at the very least it is now desirable to arrive at a firm decision on the date and venue of the third (i.e. next) core group meeting and tentative decisions on the fourth one and the combined fifth core group meeting and first conference.

Meeting	Date	Venue
Third Core Group	April 21-24, 1988	Jersey or Guernsey
Fourth Core Group	November 17-20 1988	Charlottesville
Fifth Core Group/ First Conference	April 30-May 3 1989	Guernsey or Jersey
Sixth Core Group	November 19-22 1989	Charlottesville ?
Seventh Core Group/ Second Conference	May 2-6 1990	Guernsey/Jersey or Geneva/Vienna

**2. Topics for Core Group Meetings**

A number of topics were suggested for discussion by the core group at its first meeting. Again, it is now essential to make a decision on the subject for the third meeting, and preferably the fourth and fifth as well so that a representative selection of presentations can be commissioned. It is suggested that the following be the schedule of topics:

Meeting	Topic
Third (April 1988)	Changes in Technology and the Fuel Cycle and their impact upon non proliferation policies
Fourth (November 1988)	Nuclear Trading and the new emerging suppliers
Fifth (April/May 1989)	Controls over the Trade in Delivery Vehicles
Sixth (November 1989)	Article VI arms control issues, including a Comprehensive Test Ban

Topics for the Third Meeting might include: The Prospects for Plutonium recycle; the future of Plutonium and Uranium enrichment technologies; Thermal and Fast reactor developments; the nature of the fuel, reactor and reprocessing technology markets in the 1990s and the safeguarding problems posed by new technologies.

### 3. Conferences

The objective to be sought by the conferences will largely determine their format. There seem three possible options here:

a) To use both conferences as training and educative forums for members of diplomatic services, staff of the United Nations and the IAEA and journalists who wish to acquire background knowledge about the NPT and the non-proliferation system. The second conference would therefore largely be a duplicate of the first with a totally different clientele. The aim would thus be to pass some sixty people through this programme and produce a volume derived from papers prepared for the first conference to serve as a 'handbook' for the Review Conference.

b) To limit the education enterprise to one conference only, reinforced by the 'handbook'. The second conference could then be used as a forum to discuss with leading members of key delegations the main issues likely to be encountered in the course of the 1990 review conference. These discussions could either be guided by a set of papers specially commissioned for this conference or, possibly, a draft volume prepared by the co-directors of the PPNN. This volume would be intended for publication some months before the Review Conference as part of the PPNN outreach programme, and be based, among other things, on the presentations made to the core group and discussion within it. Members of the press and leading researchers might also be present at such a second conference for all or part of the time. If this option were to be chosen, it would be a difficult matter of judgement whether the second, policy orientated conference should be held in 1989 when the process of preparing position papers was just starting in many states or in 1990 when they would be all but complete but the issues might be clearer.

c) To put the focus of the conference on methods of strengthening not just the NPT but the entire non-proliferation systems. This could include considerations such as how to co-opt non-signatories into it and actions to be taken outside of the context of the NPT.

The detailed content of the conference or conferences might consist of some 2 1/2 days of meetings based on approximately 10 presentations [If the format of Core Group meetings from Thursday dinner to Sunday lunch is continued, the conference would start with a 'keynote speech' on the Sunday evening and run through to the Wednesday lunchtime]. It would seem appropriate for the majority of the presentations to be made by the core group members, and most of the remainder to be made by some of those who had already made presentations to the core group. A draft programme for option a (with some possible presentors) might comprise:

## **History and Background of the Non-Proliferation Systems**

- Session 1 The origins of the Non-Proliferation System and the NPT: (Charles Van Doren)
- Session 2 The negotiation of the NPT: (Grinevsky, Shaker, Smart)
- Session 3 The IAEA and Safeguards: (Fischer and Rehak)
- Session 4 Lessons from the Past: the three NPT Review Conferences: (Sanders and Dhanapala)

## **Present Issues**

- Session 5 The Holdout States: (Goldblat and Spector)
- Session 6 Peaceful Uses and Nuclear trade:
- Session 7 The impact of Regional Issues on the Non-Proliferation Treaty and Regime:
- Session 8 'Vertical Proliferation' and nuclear disarmament:

## **The Future**

Session 9 New Approaches

Session 10 Conclusions

Each session could have more than one presenter to cover the ground through a division of labour or to enable differing interpretations of events to be offered. One issue that will have to be addressed however, is whether this format would be too dull, academic or historical to appeal to its likely audience. Another point is whether more participatory activities should be included, ranging from some type of organised debate to simulation exercises focused on the NPT review conference.

The type of policy orientated conference envisaged in option b could focus upon the issues likely to dominate the 1990 Review Conference, and might profitably be organised around presentations designed to illuminate areas of contention and the differing perspectives upon them. A tentative programme might be:

- Session 1 The 1985 Review Conference: areas of dissent and reasons for its success
- Session 2 The links between vertical and horizontal proliferation: the nature of the NPT and the significance of Article VI
- Session 3 How much is enough? Progress in Nuclear disarmament and support for the NPT at review Conferences
- Session 4 The role, significance and status of a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban

- Session 5 The non-signatories and the near-nuclear states: the prospects for co-option into the non-proliferation system and their impact on the Review Conference
- Session 6 Nuclear Weapon Free Zones: their significance and consequences
- Session 7 The role of the IAEA: The safeguards system, its weaknesses and methods of improving it
- Session 8 The role of the IAEA: Assistance for civil nuclear programmes
- Session 9 The consequences of new technical developments: plutonium recycle, new types of reactors, military reactors and new enrichment technologies
- Session 10 Is the NPT worth preserving?

#### **4. Other Issues**

One issue that will have to be faced under any of the three options listed above is whether only NPT country nationals should attend or whether those from non-signatories should also be included.

A second question is location. The choice here seems to be between a relatively isolated location and one in a European or American city. An isolated location would enhance commitment to the entire conference but a city one might facilitate the attendance of potential heads of delegation etc. and offer better opportunities of access to the world's press.