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DIRECTORATE OF  
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# WEEKLY SUMMARY

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## DRAFT NPT MOVES TO NEXT STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS

The draft nonproliferation treaty (NPT) submitted by the US and USSR last week is now being reviewed by the other members of the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee (ENDC).

World-wide response to the draft has been generally favorable. Even the West Germans, who had been among the most critical, were positive, although they noted that some problems remained. Italy and Japan reacted similarly. At a session of the ENDC on 23 January, however, only Britain, Canada, and Czechoslovakia publicly endorsed the draft treaty. The nonaligned members of the committee have remained silent.

Among the problems remaining is the 25-year duration of the treaty, which West Germany and Italy may try to get shortened. In addition, Italy and Spain want the ten countries most advanced in nuclear energy development to have the veto on amendments, a power that the present draft gives to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) board of governors. Both countries would also like to increase from 40 to 80 the number of ratifications necessary to put the NPT into effect. The Japanese want a provision for an automatic review conference to be held every five years.

The Western European countries question whether a verification

agreement between IAEA and Euratom can be worked out in the two years provided. Other nonnuclear states want safeguards over the peaceful nuclear activities of the nuclear powers. The US and UK, but not the USSR, have indicated a willingness to accept IAEA safeguards.

The Italians would like the decision on providing nonnuclear states with nuclear explosive devices for peaceful purposes put in the hands of an international agency rather than left to the nuclear states. Underlying this and other concerns of the nonnuclear states is a belief that they are being asked to give up a great deal while the nuclear powers are sacrificing very little.

The question of providing security assurances to the nonnuclear states remains to be worked out. Such assurances, necessary before India signs, will not be an integral part of the treaty but will probably take the form of declarations by the nuclear states and a UN resolution.

Despite the problems that remain, the completed and revised text has met many of the nonnuclear states' objections, and it is likely that the NPT will receive at least a majority endorsement from the ENDC before it is forwarded to the UN.