

Foreign Ministers Conference, Geneva 1959 ; Berlin question 1959 ; Outer sp...

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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Disarmament

28 Dec. 59

Memorandum from the Soviet Govt. to
the Govt. of France (copy sent to D.H. by
A. Sobolev, USSR)

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Translated from Russian

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

680 Park Avenue,

New York

28 December 1959

No. 495

Sir,

On the instructions of the Government of the USSR, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the Soviet Government's Memorandum to the Government of France concerning the date of meeting of the Committee of Ten on disarmament, delivered to the French Ambassador in Moscow on 28 December 1959.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed)

A. Sobolev,

Permanent Representative of the
USSR to the United Nations

Mr. Dag Hammarskjold,
Secretary-General of the United Nations,
New York.

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MEMORANDUM

The memorandum delivered by Mr. Dejean, Ambassador of France, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR on 22 December 1959 states that the Governments of Canada, the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom and Italy have decided to propose to the Governments of the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia that the Committee of ten countries on disarmament should begin its work at Geneva not at the beginning of 1960, as was proposed in the joint communiqué of the four Powers on the setting up of the Committee of Ten on disarmament, but on 15 March 1960 or at some other date about that time.

The Government of the United States had already, in November of this year, addressed to the Soviet Government a request that the Committee of Ten should begin its work not at the beginning of 1960 but at the end of February, on the ground that the United States Government would not be ready to participate in the work of the Committee of Ten on disarmament before the end of February 1960.

In reply to this communication the Government of the United States was informed that the Soviet Union was prepared to take part in the work of the Committee of Ten at the beginning of the coming year, but that since the United States would not be ready at that time the Soviet Union would have no objection to the Committee of Ten's meeting at the end of February, if the other members of the Committee were agreeable.

In reply to the French memorandum of 22 December, in which it was stated that the Western Governments which are members of the Committee of Ten on disarmament could participate in the Committee's work only on 15 March of the coming year or at some other date about that time, the Soviet Government, in agreement with the Governments of Bulgaria, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania, wishes to state that the Governments of these countries would be prepared for the Committee of Ten to be convened at the earliest possible date in 1960. Since, however, the Western Powers are not ready to convene a meeting of the Committee of Ten before 15 March 1960 or some other date about that time, then the Government of the Soviet Union, after consultation with the Governments of Bulgaria, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania, wishes

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to state that it has no objection to the convening of the Committee of Ten on the above-mentioned date.

The Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy and Canada, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, have been informed of the Soviet Government's reply to the French memorandum.

Moscow, 28 December 1959.
