

you given any thought as to the possibility of perhaps renaming this Agency so that such general misinformation might be eliminated?

Mr. FOSTER. We certainly defer to the wisdom of the Congress on that. You will recall there was a very extensive debate on that subject when the Agency was set up. We abided by your decision at that time. We are very happy to discuss that possibility with you, but it took a long time to arrive at this name as between I think the two branches of the Congress.

Mr. SELDEN. Actually this Agency, under the law, has no authority to disarm the United States in any way without the consent of the Congress—is that a correct statement?

Mr. FOSTER. Quite correct, sir. Disarmament or shift in the levels of the forces by international agreement cannot be made without the approval of the Congress of the United States.

Mr. SELDEN. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ZABLOCKI. Mr. Mailliard.

Mr. MAILLIARD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Foster, what is the status of the negotiations in this field as of the present moment? I lose track of what is going on over there in Geneva.

Mr. FOSTER. I can't blame you, sir. I somewhat lose track myself. I have had the honor of serving as you did last year as a member of the U.N. delegation in New York as Director of the Agency, and also a negotiator at Geneva. Geneva is in recess. It was recessed on September 17 subject to the completion of the disarmament negotiations at the United Nations Assembly, and then the two cochairmen of the Geneva Conference were to consult as to an appropriate date for reconvening. That had been assumed to occur sometime around the middle of March.

That was on the assumption that the General Assembly would commence meeting early in December, Committee One would meet on January 1, and that the deliberations in Committee One would take perhaps 4 to 6 weeks on arms control and disarmament, and with a 2-week gap we would go back to Geneva. Geneva is now in recess.

Many of the delegates at Geneva are delegates to the General Assembly. I have had many discussions with them and a number with Mr. Tsarapkin who is with me a cochairman of the Conference, and who is also the Soviet representative.

Mr. MAILLIARD. You would assume it won't be reconvened until next fall?

Mr. FOSTER. I think our thought would be that if the General Assembly is postponed, as you perhaps have better information than I do as of this morning, if it were to be postponed until late spring, early summer, or early fall, we have had enough discussions in New York to indicate the possibility of an early reconvening of the Geneva talks.

Mr. MAILLIARD. Is there any prospect of accomplishing anything?

Mr. FOSTER. I see no reason why we shouldn't accomplish something. We have as the most pressing problem how we might move ahead in limiting proliferation of nuclear weapons to those nations not having them. On this there is a common interest which has been expressed by all the members of the Disarmament Conference. As you know the alleged objections of the Soviet Union to the early achievement of such an agreement is their attack on the multilateral force or the allied