

25.10.02

As read by UK.

L.3 NAC Omnibus

Mr. Chairman,

I take the floor on behalf of the United Kingdom, the United States and France to explain our vote against the resolution contained in document A/C.1/57/L.3/Rev.1.

In 2000, the most recent year in which the countries of the New Agenda Coalition tabled a substantive resolution, we were glad that the resolution reflected the consensus that had been established at the NPT Review Conference in April-May of that year.

There are of course important elements in L.3/Rev.1 that we do support, such as the call for negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty and references to IAEA safeguards and the need for compliance. We are sorry to find however that this text contains many new elements that do not command consensus. A number of these elements are not acceptable to the United Kingdom, the United States, and France. I note as an example preambular paragraph 16 which presumes that all

five nuclear-weapon states should already be involved in negotiations on reductions in nuclear weapons. This was not part of the agreement at the NPT Review Conference in 2000.

Our countries remain committed to fulfilling our obligations under ~~Article 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.~~ We continue to support reductions in nuclear weapons worldwide toward this end. We believe this resolution does not take due account of the progress that has in fact been made toward that goal since 2000, including agreement in the Moscow Treaty to reduce several thousand strategic nuclear warheads over the next decade.

There are many other paragraphs in the text with which the United Kingdom, United States, and France cannot agree, such as pp9 which seems to imply that nuclear disarmament is the only imperative of the NPT, and op5 which singles out security assurances for priority treatment in relationship to the 2005 NPT Review Conference. I shall not list all our concerns, but we have made them clear in discussions

with the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mr. Chairman. Our nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation commitments remain steadfast and rooted in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. We believe that the sponsors of this ~~resolution share our attachment to that~~ treaty and the importance we place on its review process and its continuing success. The present review process has begun well. We hope that as it progresses, continuing dialogue among states parties will lead to constructive and realistic approaches that can help ensure the continued strength of the NPT at a time of serious challenges to its nonproliferation objectives.

Thank you Mr. Chairman