Description of the Arms Control And Disarmament Act

Enacted by Congress September 23, 1961

PURPOSE:

The Act declares "An ultimate goal of the United States is a world which is free from the source of war and the dangers and burdens of armaments; in which the use of force has been subordinated to the rule of law; and in which international adjustments to a changing world are achieved peacefully. It is the purpose of this Act to provide impetus toward this goal by creating a new agency of peace to deal with the problem of reduction and control of armaments looking toward ultimate world disarmament . . .

"This organization must have such a position within the Government that it can provide the President, the Secretary of State, other officials . . . and Congress with recommendations concerning United State arms control and disarmament policy, and can assess the effect of these recommendations upon our foreign policies, our national security policies, and our economy . . ."

FUNCTIONS:

(1) Research on detection, reduction, elimination, and control of armaments.

(2) Analysis of national budgets and other indicators of the amounts spent by other countries for armaments.

(3) Study of the "structure and operation of international control and other organizations useful for arms control and disarmament."

(4) Study on "the arms control and disarmament implications of foreign understanding of the significance of such policies for the achievement of arms control and disarmament," and vice versa, the effect of arms control policies on foreign policy.

(5) Research on "the scientific, economic, political, legal, social, psychological, military, and technological factors related to the prevention of a war with a view to a better understanding of how the basic structure of a lasting peace may be established.

(6) Prepare recommendations on these matters for the President, the Secretary of State, and other Government agencies.

(7) Coordinate research studies in this field by other Government agencies, and let contracts for research to public and private agencies.

(8) Under the direction of the Secretary of State, carry on negotiations with representatives of other nations.

(9) Direct the establishment of United States' participation in international armaments control agencies.

DIRECTOR:

Appointed by the President, with advice and consent of the Senate, salary $22,500. Designated as "principal adviser to the Secretary of State and the President on arms control and disarmament matters." Expected appointee: William C. Foster, former director of ICA. Deputy Director and four Assistant Directors also to be appointed by the President, under Senate confirmation.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Up to 15 members, may be appointed by the President with the consent of the Senate. To meet at least twice yearly, and to advise the President, the Secretary of State, and the Disarmament Director on matters affecting arms control, disarmament, and world peace.

APPROPRIATION:

$10,000,000 authorized, but only an interim appropriation of $2,000,000 so far provided. This will enable the present staff to be transferred from the regular State Department budget, and provide for the appointment of Directors and a moderate expansion of staff.

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New Campaign Initiated

"Turn Toward Peace"

"Turn Toward Peace" is the slogan of a new national campaign initiated by peace, church, labor and public affairs leaders "to develop alternatives to the threat of war as the central thrust of American foreign policy."

Launched in September and initially planned as a three-month operation for the fall of 1961, the campaign resulted from a recommendation by the Consultative Peace Council, a group of organizations concerned with peace education and action. At a meeting in July, the council, concerned about the crisis facing mankind, felt that the various peace groups should play a larger role in developing alternatives to war.

The campaign officially got under way in September at a meeting of non-governmental organization leaders to define the scope of the campaign. It was decided that the campaign would focus on five issues: Berlin, nuclear weapons and inspected disarmament, the China question, defining and strengthening the U.N., and the new disarmament agency.

It is hoped to carry the campaign into the 16 largest Metropolitan centers and some 400 communities throughout the U.S. The effort allows a wide variety of organizations to relate to it in the detail of local programs and organization plans.

In addition to the state and community work, the group will also launch a major media campaign to get these issues discussed before the public.

For further information, write Robert Pickus, campaign coordinator, American Friends Service Committee, 218 E. 18th St., New York, N. Y.

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Plotting Against War

A "Conference to Plan a Strategy for Peace" was held October 19-22 at AIRLEE, a new conference center near **Warrenton, Va.**, about 40 miles from Washington.

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Excerpts on Disarmament

From President Kennedy's Speech Before the United Nations, September 25, 1961

For 15 years this organization has sought the reduction and destruction of arms. Now that goal is no longer a dream—it is a practical matter of life or death. The risks inherent in disarmament pale in comparison to the risks inherent in an unlimited arms race.

It is in this spirit that the recent Belgrade conference—recognizing that this is no longer a Soviet problem or an American problem, but a human problem—indorsed a program of "general, complete and strictly and internationally controlled disarmament." It is in this same spirit that we in the United States have labored this year, with a new urgency, and with a new, now statutory agency, fully endorsed by the Congress, to find an approach to disarmament which would be so far-reaching yet realistic, so mutually balanced and beneficial, that it could be accepted by every nation. And it is in this spirit that we have presented to the Soviet Union—under the label both nations now accept of "general and complete disarmament"—a statement of newly agreed principles for negotiation.

But we are well aware that all issues of principle are not settled—and that principles alone are not enough. It is therefore our intention to challenge the Soviet Union, not to an arms race, but to a peace race—to advance with us step by step, stage by stage, until general and complete disarmament has actually been achieved. We invite them now to go beyond agreement in principle to reach agreement on actual plans.

The program to be presented to this Assembly—for general and complete disarmament under effective international control—moves to bridge the gap between those who insist on a gradual approach and those who talk only of the final and total achievement. It would create machinery to keep the peace as it destroys the machines of war . . .

It would ultimately halt their production as well as their testing, their transfer as well as their possession. It would achieve, under the eye of an international disarmament organization, a steady reduction in forces, both nuclear and conventional, until it has abolished all armies and all weapons except those needed for internal order and a new United Nations peace force. And it starts that process now, today, even as talks begin . . .

Such a plan would not bring a world free from conflict or greed—but it would bring a world free from the terrors of mass destruction. It would not usher in the era of the super-state—but it would usher in an era in which no state could annihilate or be annihilated by another . . .

To destroy arms, however, is not enough. We must create even as we destroy—creating world-wide law and law enforcement as we outlaw world-wide war and weapons. In the world we seek, United Nations emergency forces which have been hastily assembled, uncertainly supplied and inadequately financed will never be enough.

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WE BELIEVE

Do You Believe?

U. N. WE BELIEVE is a program supporting the United Nations carried out jointly by the American Association for the United Nations and the U. S. Committee for the U. N.

Its two purposes are to persuade industry, organizations and individuals to make it their policy to support publicly the principles and purposes of the U.N., and to provide specific ways in which this support can be expressed.

This group supplies seals, posters, plaques, banners, printer's cuts, slides and plates for postage meters, and can offer suggestions as to how the symbol might be used. Write to U.N. WE BELIEVE, 33 East 48th Street, New York 17, N. Y., for further information.

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Larson Commends Kennedy's Berlin Views

Dr. Arthur Larson, director of the World Rule of Law Center at Duke University, in his guest editorial in the SATURDAY REVIEW of August 19, commends the "non-military one-two punch" in President Kennedy's recent speech on Berlin. He quotes these paragraphs of the president:

"If anyone doubts the legality of our rights in Berlin, we are ready to have it submitted to adjudication.

"If anyone doubts the extent to which our presence is desired by the people of West Berlin, compared to East German feelings about their regime, we are ready to have that question submitted to a free vote in Berlin, and, if possible, among all the German people."

Larson commented: "One of the finest effects of the inclusion of these two sentences in the president's speech is that, like a tiny drop of dye in a large solution, it changes the entire color of the speech on military preparedness . . .

"We ought to sound this rallying cry in relation to Berlin and every other problem every hour on the hour, in season and out of season, until it suffuses the remotest reaches of world opinion: as to present rights, adjudication; as to changes in rights, self-determination."

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