

EDITOR'S NOTE

The surviving documentation in UK archives on the negotiation of the NPT in the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee is immense. The files covering the years 1964-1968 are extensive as shown in Annex A. All of these are publicly available at United Kingdom's The National Archives (TNA) at Kew in London. What follows is a only a very modest selection of some of the key documents that illustrate the issues under consideration, the policy options and challenges, the views of the key players directly and indirectly involved in the negotiations, and the negotiated outcomes. This compendium does not purport to be comprehensive. In British state papers, mostly those from the Foreign Office (FO and FCO), we see that by far the most difficult issues for the UK were nuclear sharing in NATO and the core prohibitions in a future Treaty, and the future role of IAEA safeguards in preventing diversion of fissile material from civil nuclear facilities for military purposes. In view of subsequent debates during successive NPT Review Conferences, it is instructive to note now how relatively little attention or concern the negotiators had for Article IV (peaceful uses) and Article VI (general and complete disarmament) issues. The UK negotiating records shows that contemporaries had different priorities and concerns. The chapters are organised by year and the papers grouped largely by issue and in approximate chronological order. The quality of the images contained in this selection varies as these are photographs taken of originals, and some of which are from bound volumes of papers, which makes reproduction of good quality copies extremely difficult. Despite this, we believe that the documents contained herein are readable. Readers wishing to follow up on the issues highlighted in this short section can do so by consulting the files listed in the Annex A.

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