

SUMMARY

The conditions of the post war period, caused the technological and military power to be concentrated in the USA and the Soviet Union. During the period of 1945-1957, in the field of nuclear weapons, the USA maintained an absolute superiority over the Soviet Union. Particularly in the early years of this period, a gap existed between the military thinking in the USA and its disarmament policy. The Soviet Union, while undermining the strategic importance of nuclear weapons, at the same time tried to ban nuclear weapons and enhance international cooperation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

In 1946 the USA, also with the influence of domestic factors, proposed Baruch plan for the international control of nuclear energy. The essential thinking of the Baruch plan was based on the Acheson-Lilienthal plan. The Baruch plan was rejected by the Soviet Union.

The disarmament efforts between the years of 1949-1953 was mainly directed to propaganda purposes.

The changes of power in the USA and the Soviet Union in 1953, gave way in both countries to a reassessment of their nuclear policies as a result of which the Soviet Union put forward a general and complete disarmament plan embodying a system of verification. The United States replied to this with an aerial inspection plan called «Open Skies». On the other hand, the United States proposed «Atom for Peace» programme. However, all these initiatives did not produce any positive result. The negotiations which took place in various fora proved the question of verification to be the most intransigent issue of disagreement.

In 1957 when the Soviet Union acquired long range intercontinental ballistic missiles which can reach the United States, a balance of deterrence was formed between the two countries. The emergence of a balance between two nuclear powers and the cha-

racteristics of nuclear weapons caused the disarmament efforts to be diverted from general and complete disarmament and focus on partial measures aimed at preservation of nuclear balance.

During the period of 1959-1970 series of multilateral agreements were concluded in the field of partial measures. Of these agreements, Antarctica Treaty, Treaty on the peaceful use of outer space, The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, Non-Proliferation Treaty, The Treaty on the Prohibition of the emplacement of nuclear weapons on the seabed were in the nature of non-armament, devoted to prevent arms race in those areas which did not contain nuclear weapons.

The Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, although primarily aimed at bringing the technological race in the field of nuclear weapons to a halt, caused in fact the nuclear tests to be transferred to the underground at an increasing rate. China and France did not adhere to the Treaty.

The non proliferation treaty which is concluded with the aim of limiting the number of the members of nuclear club, was subjected to criticism chiefly due to the inequalities it created between nuclear and non-nuclear states.

As a result of the progress achieved by the Soviet Union in nuclear weapons, a parity was formed between the United States and the Soviet Union from 1969 on. Such a parity enabled the USA and the Soviet Union to hold negotiations with the view of limiting the strategic arms race, which produced the SALT agreements.

This development, consequently, diminished the importance of the nuclear disarmament issues in the multilateral disarmament fora.

Two important factors which initiated the strategic arms limitation talks were the concern felt over the spiral arms race which had rendered the strategic balance into a very fragile one and also enormous financial burdens it had placed in the two countries.

In the agreements concluded as a result of the negotiations held between 1969-1972, the USA and the Soviet Union undertook, with certain exceptions, not to deploy ABM systems. The two parties also agreed to freeze the number of offensive weapons. The most important criticism put against the agreements is that they did not contain any substantial qualitative restriction to the offen-

sive and defensive weapons and thus did not bring a curb to the arms race.

The SALT Agreements are directed to the protection of the nuclear balance through limiting the defensive weapons and maintaining the effectiveness of offensive weapons.

Turkey has not pursued a very active policy in the field of nuclear disarmament. In the post war period, when Turkey was under Soviet threat, the main factor that shaped the position it adopted towards disarmament issues was the concern felt at the Soviet efforts to possess nuclear weapons together with the Soviet superiority in conventional weapons.

Between 1950-1952, Turkey being a member of the Security Council, automatically became a member of 12 - Nation Disarmament Committee and Disarmament Commission. In these years, Turkey generally supported the views and proposals put forward by the Western countries and opposed those of the Soviet Union.

In 1957 Turkey had approved the deployment of IRBM's on its territory which were deployed between 1961-1963. This led the Soviet Union and other East European states to put forward proposals on establishing nuclear free zones in the Balkans. Turkey as a counterbalance to such proposals, gave more weight to the view that disarmament should be carried out within a global context in the form of general and complete disarmament. Turkey held the opinion that a general and complete disarmament should be realized in different phases and in a balanced manner, comprising both nuclear and conventional weapons under effective international control.

Turkey initially viewed the proposals on partial disarmament measures with certain distrust. However, in subsequent year it supported them as measures paving path to the general and complete disarmament.

Of these measures, Turkey, has signed and ratified the test ban and outer space treaties. It has also attached importance to ban underground nuclear test. It has signed the non-proliferation and sea-bed treaties, but has not yet ratified them.

The SALT talks aroused suspicions in the Turkish public opinion, all of which were not shared by the Turkish Governments.

In recent years, there are certain signs indicating that Turkey is willing to play a more active role in the field of disarmament.