
ISODARCO Meeting #17

*ISODARCO Beijing Second Seminar on Arms Control
Beijing, China; 4-8 April, 1990*

This Meeting was jointly organized by the Beijing Institute of Applied Physics and Computational Mathematics (IAPCM), the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) and the International School on Disarmament and Research on Conflicts (ISODARCO). It was supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, as well as by the following Chinese institutions: Beijing Institute of System Engineering, Beijing Integral Institute of Electric Engineering, China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, China National Nuclear Corporation, Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, International Technology and Economy Institute, Research Institute of Chemical Defence, Southwest Institute of Nuclear Physics and Chemistry.

The meeting was attended by 84 Chinese and 16 foreign participants. All foreign participants and most of the Chinese participants stayed through the meeting at the Jade Palace Hotel, where all participants had all their meals and many social and private opportunities to interact informally. The plenary session took place next door, at the Institute #501 of the Aeronautical Department. At the opening session, Carlo Schaerf, Director of the International School on Disarmament and Research on Conflicts (ISODARCO) said:

Dear friends and colleagues,

it is indeed a great pleasure to be here again with you for our second Beijing seminar on arms control, and I wish, first of all, to thank my dear friend Prof. Hu Side and his collaborators for making this meeting possible. Our first seminar in 1988 was a very successful one and I am sure that Prof. Hu Side will make this an even better meeting.

This gathering was originally scheduled for the fall of 1989 but during the tragic events of June it was unanimously decided to postpone it. The final rescheduling of the seminar produced a painful debate among our friends from the United States and Western Europe. Some felt that we should not come to China at this time while others were eager to continue the very fruitful and friendly contacts that we were having with our Chinese friends and colleagues: with all of you here. As usual with matters of conscience, the final decisions were individual. Some friends decided not to come, and we respect their decisions. We, here, decided that the climate of friendship and understanding and constructive debate among scientists is too important to help building a more peaceful and tolerant world, and that we should continue our work with all of you in this direction.

The seminar turned indeed out to be very well organized and quite successful as regards the quality of the lectures, of the discussions and generally of the participants, as well as the many opportunities for in depth discussion on all topics in small informal groups and through private and friendly contacts. It is a pleasant duty to thank all our Chinese hosts for the excellent organization and the congenial setting and atmosphere.