

role of a seismic-data exchange system in the verification process of a comprehensive ban. In our view, such an exchange system will surely be an essential part of any verification proposal designed to overcome the disagreement between the nuclear powers on this important issue.

Arms on the Seabed

Another measure designed to impose controls on nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction is the seabed arms-control treaty, a revised draft of which is appended to the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and which was the subject of comment by our two co-chairmen of the Geneva Disarmament Conference this morning. The seabed treaty, in our views, is, in at least one respect, similar to the Outer Space Treaty, in that it is designed to preclude the extension of the nuclear-arms race into an environment newly opened up by the world's rapidly advancing technology. But, in addition to its arms-limitation functions, we consider that the treaty is also important for its contribution to opening up vast areas of the seabed for peaceful development. It constitutes, we recognize, the major achievement of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in the session just concluded.

It must, I believe, be recognized as evidence that the expanded Committee on Disarmament in Geneva has proven itself to be a viable and effective forum for the discussion of arms-control issues, as has been demonstrated by the fact that additional changes have been made to the seabed treaty in negotiation in order to meet concerns expressed in this Committee as well as in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament last year. The draft represents the most successful negotiation to date in which not only the co-chairmen but all the other delegations at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament have participated fully while protecting their interests. Indeed, compromises were extracted from all parties, and we believe that the final product is definitely the better for that process.

In response to General Assembly Resolution 2602 F (XXIV) calling on the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue its work on a treaty to prohibit the emplacement of weapons of mass destruction on the seabed, taking into account the proposals and suggestions made here last year, much of the last session of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament was devoted to that topic. Members will recall that last year the Canadian delegation was among those calling for further modifications to the draft treaty which had then been submitted to the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly. The particular concern of the Canadian delegation was that the treaty should give all parties reasonable assurances of compliance and take into account the rights of coastal states. Therefore we concentrated our efforts, in co-operation with many other delegations, on attempting to devise verification procedures which would ensure that all states, great or small, technologically