

In this regard the suggestions made in the Committee on 17 April by the representatives of Canada (ENDC/404, paras.82 et seq.) and the United Kingdom (ibid., paras.12 et seq.) deserve our very careful study.

54. I now come to the question: What if a request to provide data on a specific event should be rejected, or if falsified data should be provided on it? My delegation wishes to suggest, in order to prevent such an unfortunate situation, the setting up of what may be called an international monitoring centre which would objectively analyse seismological data and determine whether there were underground nuclear explosions. Whenever there was a suspicious underground event, the centre would request, on the basis of the data-exchange agreement which I have described earlier, the provision of copies of graphic and magnetic records as well as the result of their analysis, not only of such an event itself, but also of other events which should be compared with it. This centre might also be authorized to request, if necessary, the provision of certain other materials which might confirm the credibility of the data provided.

55. Further elaborating the functions of the centre, these would be (1) to examine regularly the report of the quick reporting centre on the epicentre, depth and magnitude of underground events and to point out suspicious events; (2) to collect necessary data on the suspicious events and other events to be examined for analytical purposes; (3) to analyse the collected data and determine whether the suspicious events were underground explosions or earthquakes; and (4) to watch regularly the operation of the registered observatories. In view of these functions, the centre might best be staffed by scientific and technical experts on an international basis.

56. This is the suggestion of my delegation on a seismological means of verification of compliance with a complete underground test-ban treaty on the basis of international co-operation. As all the specific measures indicated in my presentation involve technical problems in the field of seismology, I hope that they will be examined by the experts in this field without delay and that we can come to an early agreement on the complete prohibition of underground nuclear weapon tests. In further elaborating and implementing these specific measures, Japan will contribute as much as it can through providing the knowledge and experience it has accumulated in the field of seismology as well as through other means. My delegation will welcome any comment on the suggestions I have made today.

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84. Basing itself on the considerations I have briefly outlined, the Romanian delegation declares itself firmly in favour of the adoption of energetic measures designed to prevent the militarization of the sea-bed and the ocean floor. From that point of view we consider that the draft treaty submitted by the delegation of the Soviet Union (ENDC/240), which proposes the prohibition of all military activities, offers the most comprehensive and effective solution.

85. It appears from the debates that have taken place hitherto that the question of verification is the cause of general concern. The Romanian delegation expresses itself in favour of the establishment of an effective international system of control which would be carried out through an appropriate body designed to serve exclusively the purpose of verifying fulfilment of the obligations assumed under the treaty. It goes without saying that all States expressing the desire to do so must have the opportunity of participating in such control machinery. It is also necessary for the system of control established by the treaty to take into account the interests of all States, large and small, without any discrimination whatsoever: in other words, the provisions concerning control must give expression to the actual equality of the States participating in the future agreement.