

Introduction

For many years the achievement of a Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) has been a central Norwegian foreign policy goal. A total and permanent ban on all nuclear testing is essential in order to halt effectively both the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, another important reason for the discontinuance of all nuclear test explosions is the environmental and health risks associated with underground nuclear explosions.

The Conference on Disarmament is an appropriate forum for dealing with the issue of a Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs wished to contribute to the work of the Conference on Disarmament when it took the initiative to carry out a study on some of the most important questions related to a CTBT.

Individual chapters were prepared by renowned international experts and modified in view of comments at a workshop held in Oslo late in March 1992. These chapters discuss reasons for nuclear testing, the history of public opinion on the matter, environmental effects of underground nuclear explosions, partial test limitation treaties in force, attempts at reaching a CTBT, and verifying compliance with a CTBT.

A final chapter presents the assessment of the experts assembled at the workshop on the utility and feasibility of a CTBT, based on the material of the individual chapters and the discussion and analysis at the workshop. This document consists of the final chapter of the study.

The members of the expert group were:

- Professor Steven A. Fetter
University of Maryland
- Professor Trevor Findlay
The Australian National University
- Professor Joseph Rotblat
Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs
- Professor Richard L. Garwin
Columbia University/IBM Research Division
- Dr. Jozef Goldblat
Arms Control Consultant
Senior Lecturer and Research Fellow at the Geneva Graduate Institute
of International Studies
- Phil.lic. Jan Prawitz
Ministry of Defence, Sweden
- Director Frode Ringdal
Norwegian Seismic Array (NORSAR)

The report was finalized at a workshop in Oslo 30-31 March 1992. Director Sverre Lodgaard of the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo, chaired the workshop.