

they all end these tests, permanently and for all time, then the result of such action will be the same as if these were taken on the basis of an agreement. Common sense urges the need to assist in the achievement of this goal.

We have repeatedly emphasized that if anyone were to be put at a disadvantage by the general cessation of nuclear weapon tests at the present time, it would be the Soviet Union, which has taken this step although it has carried out fewer test explosions than the USA and Great Britain, a fact which puts it into an unequal position in comparison with these two powers, especially as they continue such tests.

If there does not exist up to now an international agreement on the cessation of nuclear tests this is contrary to the desire of the Soviet Union. Only one thing is necessary to reach an agreement binding all parties - the agreement of the Governments of the USA and Great Britain to cease carrying out experimental nuclear explosions.

In your letter you ask for clarification of the attitude of the Soviet Government with regard to the establishment of a control system for the verification of nuclear tests. You know that in due course the Soviet Union put forward proposals concerning the establishment of control posts on the territories of the USSR, USA, Great Britain and in the area of the Pacific Ocean, designed at supervising the implementation of an agreement on the cessation of nuclear tests. We agreed to this though it is definitely known that national scientific institutions are able even without these posts to register any nuclear explosion wherever it is carried out on the globe. We are prepared to discuss with the powers concerned everything that pertains to this problem - the number of such posts, their exact distribution on the territories of countries, and other matters. Our appeals for this, however, have so far brought few results, except for an agreement in principle on the part of the Government of the USA for discussions of the problem of control for the detection of nuclear weapons tests between the experts of the corresponding countries.

The Soviet Government agrees to appoint special experts to study the technical details pertaining to control over the cessation of nuclear tests, though in its opinion it was necessary first of all to agree in principle to stop such tests and then to work out common measures on control. Considering, however, that the Governments of some western powers regard the preliminary work of experts as useful, the Soviet Government has expressed its readiness to try that way as well.

We, of course, cannot forget the bitter experience inherent in the fact that negotiations, which have been carried on for many years in organs of the UN on disarmament, and in which both of our Governments have participated, have been reduced in fact to endless discussions on forms of control over commitments which have not yet been undertaken by Governments and which, as is now clear, neither the USA nor the other Western Powers have been ready to assume. Naturally, everything must be done to prevent the repetition