

J124(A83)

J124(A83)

Proposal Abstract J124(A83)

1. Arms Control Problem:

Nuclear weapons - proliferation
- fissionable materials "cut off"

2. Verification Type:

- (a) Remote sensors
- (b) International control organization
- (c) On-site inspection - selective

3. Source:

Sharp, Jane M.O. "Verifying a Warhead Freeze". Arms Control Today 13, no. 5 (June 1983).

4. Summary:

This article examines the prospects for verifying a ban on the construction of warheads as a central component of a comprehensive nuclear freeze. In order to determine the feasibility of verifying such a ban, the author speculates on the nature of possible restrictions. The shut-down of some US nuclear facilities could be readily verified using only national technical means of verification. Where fissile material is still produced at a facility, an international agency such as the IAEA could ensure that this material would not be diverted to weapons production.

Another issue pertains to the difficulties arising from US insistence that adequate verification requirements precede any agreement. It is proposed that the US forego this requirement and "meet the Soviet Union half way", in the hope that this might in turn inspire Soviet concessions. The article concludes that such a ban might be verifiable, as plant shut-downs could be monitored through national technical means, which would in turn be supplemented by both cooperative measures and on-site inspection.