

territories and that all foreign bases be evacuated, as well as on the holding of a world conference to produce a convention that would prohibit the use of nuclear weapons. Non-aligned representatives in the ENDC generally confined themselves to expressions of regret over the situation in Vietnam and elsewhere, and devoted the major part of their statements to the two topics recommended by the UNDC for priority attention.

Cessation of Nuclear-Weapon Tests

In Resolution 225, the UNDC urged the Disarmament Committee to give first priority to considering the question of extending the partial test-ban treaty of 1963, which prohibits tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, so as to outlaw underground tests as well. All the non-aligned representatives in the ENDC have treated this subject as the most urgent item before the Committee, many referring to earlier suggestions for making progress by, for example, the extension of the partial test ban to include a prohibition of underground tests above a certain seismic magnitude, or "threshold" (the figure usually suggested is 4.75 on the scale of magnitude in common use among seismologists), which could be controlled by national means of detection alone. Others have suggested spreading a quota of "on-site" inspections over several years, instead of setting a yearly quota.

On September 7, the Soviet representative referred to a statement by the United Arab Republic in which the latter had supported the threshold proposal and also suggested a moratorium on all tests pending agreement on a comprehensive ban. Omitting the third point in the U.A.R. statement (regarding the desirability of exchanges of scientific information) and linking the threshold and moratorium more closely than the U.A.R. had done, the Soviet representative said his delegation could agree to the "U.A.R. proposal" as a compromise, i.e. in lieu of demanding a ban on all underground tests, using only national means of verification. A number of Western representatives pointed out that this did not appear to represent any change in essence in the Soviet position, as the effect of the "compromise" proposal would be the same as the former one. Western representatives have also reiterated their opposition to an unverified moratorium. As the United States pointed out, this opposition was based on the recollection that the last moratorium on nuclear testing — from late 1958 to the end of August 1961 — had been broken unilaterally by the U.S.S.R.

Identification of Seismic Events

It will be recalled that, some time ago, the Soviet Union went back on its earlier agreement to permit a small number of "on-site" inspections annually in conjunction with a comprehensive test ban. It has since insisted that national means of verification are adequate, but has never been willing to provide the scientific and technical information to substantiate this contention. Western representatives, on the other hand, have pointed out that the present state of the technique of detecting and identifying underground seismic events is not adequate to distinguish