

ability of experimental testing, the Soviet representative said that "the decision on whether to conduct such testing should be taken by the parties to the treaty". This would mean, as was stressed by Ambassador Ogiso last week, that the treaty would lack its main instrument of verification for at least one year. We share the concern expressed by the Japanese delegation in this regard.

The further work of the seismic Group could be carried out in two distinct phases. The first would be the preparation for the experimental exercise and the second the experiment itself. After the completion of the preparatory work, i.e. the first phase, the CCD should consider the desirability of carrying out the actual experimental exercise.

CCD/PV.783 p.42

Mongolia/Erdembileg

30.3.78

CTB

We entirely agree with the view that an international exchange of seismic data will play a major role in verification of compliance with the proposed treaty. We believe that the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts established by the Committee to consider international co-operative measures to detect and to identify seismic events has done some useful work. The Group prepared and unanimously adopted a report of which the Committee on Disarmament has taken note. The Mongolian delegation would like to commend the Ad Hoc Group and its Chairman, Mr. Ericsson, on the work accomplished.

I should like to refer to just one point in the Ad Hoc Group's report -- the proposal concerning an experimental exercise to test the international system for the exchange of seismic data.

In principle, we are in favour of an experimental exercise to test and evaluate unproven elements of the co-operative system and to identify any deficiencies in the system. In the opinion of the experts, the successful conduct of an experimental exercise would need careful planning and detailed specifications for its elements. As the report indicates, this first stage will require a minimum of six months, and perhaps longer. The second stage -- the full-scale exercise itself -- would require a further period of about one year.

With regard to the first stage, our delegation considers it wise to start the preparatory work for the experimental exercise before the conclusion of a treaty in order to ensure adequate advance preparation, and to draw up scientific and methodological guidelines for the exercise, as proposed by the Soviet delegation.

This work the Committee could entrust to the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts and prolong its mandate accordingly.

With regard to the second stage -- the actual conduct of the exercise -- our position is dictated primarily by the ultimate objective of international co-operation in the detection and identification of seismic events, namely, verification of compliance with a treaty prohibiting nuclear-weapon tests.

As such a treaty has yet to be concluded and the identity of the parties to it determined, it is impossible to decide in advance the competence of the parties themselves. It is in that light that our delegation interprets the reference in the tripartite statement to the agreement of the participants that the detailed organizational and procedural arrangements for implementing the international exchange should be worked out after the entry into force of the treaty.

CCD/PV.784 p.11

Italy/di Bernardo

25.4.78

IVO

Lastly, verification machinery. The Italian Government has always been of the opinion that it is impossible to consider disarmament measures -- disarmament, as we