

to build up nuclear weapons will be accelerated even more by the new series of experimental nuclear explosions".

Clearly then dangers of further experimentation in this field are admitted. It may have grave effects both on our own health and on future generations; it is ultimately a threat to the security of mankind; it increases international tensions and reduces the possibility of agreements in other fields. If this is the belief of the leading statesmen of the nuclear powers, why can they not stop the tests? But it is not only the responsibility of the nuclear powers; nuclear testing affects all nations; to deal with it is the responsibility of all of us represented here. Can we not, as rational beings, act in our own interest?

The advantages of a test cessation agreement are many. Such an agreement would not give a special advantage to this or that country or alliance, but would be in the interest of all humanity. Let me summarize the truly impressive gains which a nuclear test ban agreement would achieve.

First, as the major powers themselves recognize, it would significantly reduce radiation hazards and improve international security.

Second, it would inhibit the development of more and more destructive nuclear weapons.

Third, it would arrest the development of nuclear weapons by an increasing number of nations, a danger whose gravity can be recognized by all, and one may say, especially by the present nuclear powers.

Fourth, it would be a start on disarmament. My Delegation entirely endorses the view expressed by the Acting Secretary-General in the introduction to his annual report, in which he emphasized that the first step toward disarmament is to stop nuclear testing. We share his sincere hope "that the nuclear powers will realize that the whole world is hoping and praying that an agreed first step may be taken soon".