

ban is revised and the elaboration of a draft treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests is begun, the Soviet Union would be ready to consider the possibility of organizing, as has been proposed by Sweden, the exchange of data on the radioactivity of air masses with the establishment of appropriate international data centres on the same basis as is envisaged in respect of the seismic data exchange. We could speak about this in detail within the framework of the subsidiary body.

It is not by chance that today we refer to the problem of a nuclear-test ban. Its solution will seriously hinder the qualitative nuclear-arms race, in particular the appearance of the most destabilizing types of such weapons, designed to carry out a first strike. One can therefore say that the cessation of tests without delay also reflects the military and political intentions of States, a kind of material expression of the readiness to renounce preparing for a nuclear attack. Finally, the renunciation of tests is also tantamount to verification of adherence to the non-proliferation regime, since conducting nuclear explosions represents a necessary link in the development of nuclear weapons. Under current conditions, the question of a nuclear-weapon-test ban has acquired particular importance and urgency.

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Technical issues involved in the elaboration of the appropriate provisions of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, in particular those connected with the development of an international system of seismic data exchange, the establishment of International Data Centres, and the transmission of seismic data through communication channels of the World Meteorological Organization have, in our view, been dealt with in the most detailed manner. That, of course, is a positive element. On the other hand, we are put on our guard by the lack, in this multilateral negotiating forum, of any kind of serious negotiations on the elaboration of the treaty itself. This situation has arisen, first and foremost, as a result of the unwillingness of certain States to advance towards the conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests. In order to cover up their reluctance, the representatives of the United States of America and the United Kingdom are deliberately over-emphasizing the question of the system of verification, whose importance is recognized by all the parties in favour of considering the substance of the matter. In short, persistent attempts are being made to impose upon the Conference on Disarmament a limited and curtailed mandate for its subsidiary body called upon to conduct negotiations on a comprehensive prohibition of nuclear tests.

In accordance with the recommendation of the United Nations General Assembly, a group of socialist countries and the Group of 21 continue to support the adoption of a mandate which would make it possible to embark without delay on negotiations with the aim of the elaboration of an appropriate international treaty. Two draft mandates have been presented, one by a group of socialist States (CD/434) and the other by the Group of 21 (CD/492). Despite these constructive efforts by delegations belonging to these two groups of countries, it has proved impossible, owing to the obstructionist position of the United States of America and the United Kingdom, to reach consensus on drafting a mandate and on the question of setting up an ad hoc committee on a nuclear-test ban having a suitable mandate.

We are disturbed by the fact that China and France continue to stand aside from participating in the consideration of the substance of this important question.

I should like to stress that the delegations of socialist States, reaffirming their position of principle on questions of real disarmament proceeding from the need to reach agreement on radical measures towards the limitation and reduction of weapons on the