

Information Series

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THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

Canada

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) bans all nuclear explosions for purposes of developing or qualitatively improving nuclear weapons. The Treaty reflects a significant international norm adhered to by the vast majority of states to eschew nuclear explosions; 150 of 193 United Nations Member States have signed the Treaty. All the declared nuclear-weapon states have signed.

Of the 44 states whose signature and ratification is required before entry into force, all but India, Pakistan and North Korea have signed. India and Pakistan have recently given indications that they may sign soon. North Korea is a signatory to the Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons which obligates it not to test.

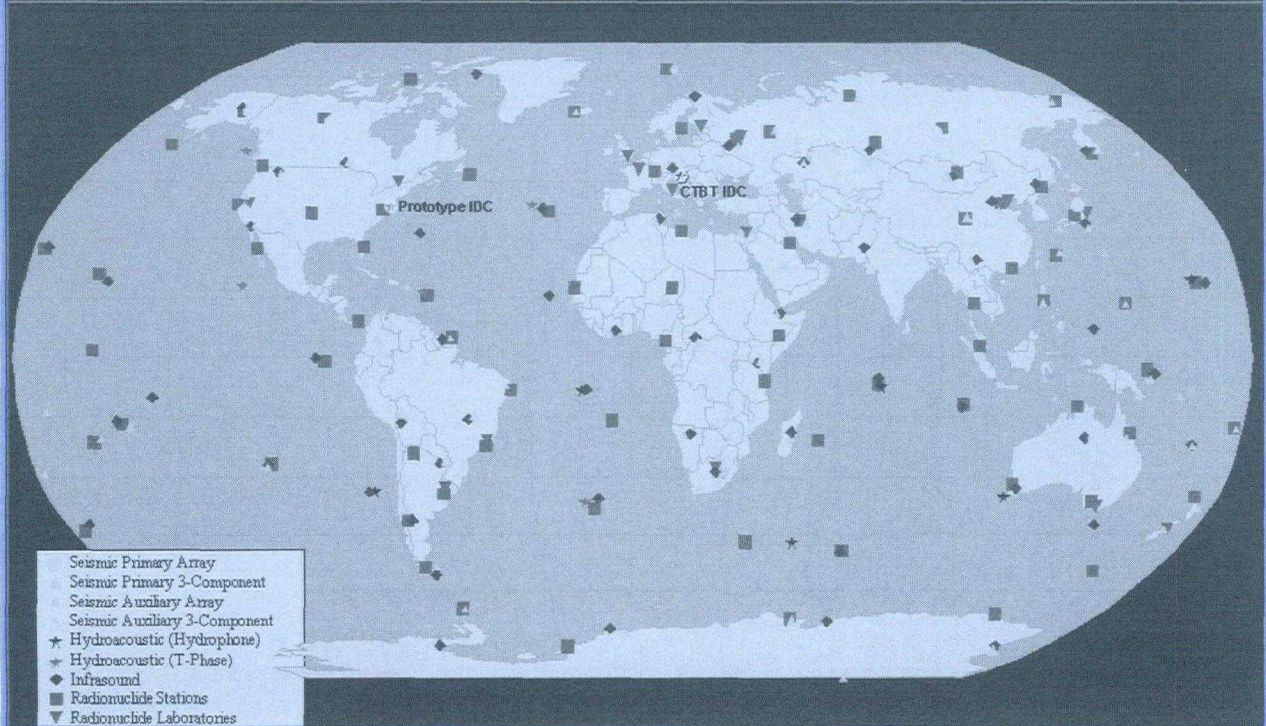
or underground, anywhere on earth. Even while only partially operational, the IMS still was easily able to detect and identify the recent Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests explosions. The IMS provides a great deterrence to any state which might entertain the clandestine development of nuclear weapons.

The CTBT calls for the establishment of an International Monitoring System (IMS) of 321 monitoring stations (see world map) to detect and identify with a high degree of confidence all explosions greater than one kilotonne in the atmosphere, underwater

The Treaty limits the ability of all states to develop nuclear weapons, and limits the ability of the five declared nuclear-weapon states to develop additional nuclear weapons, which in turn provides them with reciprocal assurances, thus encouraging them towards further disarmament.

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CTBT International Monitoring System Network



Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce international

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

