

countries. A third and important object would be to work out procedures which would enable data to be exchanged with sufficient speed to be meaningful and useful for effective verification of a comprehensive test ban.

Once some of these practical problems have been solved on the basis of actual experience, and the habit of exchanging seismic information has been established, we would then be in a position to turn our attention to the second broad aspect of the problem. As we see it, this is to establish some international arrangement for pooling and exchanging significant seismic data through a simple clearing house or data centre. At the present time, the Canadian delegation has no firm views about where or how such a central unit might be established. We do however consider that its main function should be to act purely as a collection and distributing centre for significant scientific and other information. The kind of central unit we have in mind should not have any responsibilities for interpreting data passing through its hands or forming judgments about the information it provides. The interpretation of information would be a political function resting with the governments. The governments should be free to make their own determination about significance of the information provided and whether an underground nuclear explosion had taken place. In the process of doing so, the governments could of course make whatever use they wished of the information provided by the data centre and could consult with other governments if they so desired.

I have outlined in a very general form some of the ideas about ways in which members might begin cooperating in this field and have put forward some thoughts about how cooperative effort might eventually be organized and institutionalized. The Canadian delegation hopes that the governments of other countries represented here will study this matter and will have suggestions to make which will contribute constructively to the solution of the problem of how to verify a comprehensive test ban treaty effectively.