toring network. Large volumes of material poured into the UN headquarters in New York and was analysed with Canadian help. A paper by Basham and Whitham of the Earth Physics Branch summed up the results and concluded that, with the network then existing, there was a 90 per cent probability of detecting any seismic event of Richter magnitude 4.5 in the northern hemisphere. However, there was much less confidence in the ability to identify correctly whether that same event was an earthquake or an explosion. An event of such magnitude would be equivalent to the detonation of a 3–10 kiloton explosive in a hardrock situation.

Capability for detection in the southern hemisphere, which is 85 per cent ocean, would be much less because of the paucity of good seismograph stations. The Canadian report contained a number of recommendations on how this detection capability might be improved and further papers addressed the question of how to improve estimations of the yield of remote events.