

environments has been the long-standing disagreement concerning whether national means of seismological detection are adequate for verification of compliance with an underground test ban or whether additional international means or procedures must be developed in order to obviate the need for "on-site" inspection. In view of this continuing impasse on verification requirements, proposals introduced in the Geneva Disarmament Committee in 1969 for an immediate underground test ban or moratorium made little progress.

Canada took the initiative in the Geneva Committee and at the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly by proposing a resolution which invited member states to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning their seismological observatories that would collaborate in a possible world-wide exchange of seismic data. Such an exchange, if it proves feasible, might eventually assist in determining by seismological means whether shock waves in the earth were produced by an earthquake or by an underground nuclear test and thus might indicate how to achieve an internationally-acceptable means of identifying underground nuclear tests and or prohibiting them under a verified comprehensive test ban. This Canadian resolution was adopted at the twenty-fourth General Assembly by a vote of 99 in favor to seven opposed, with 13 abstentions.

#### Balanced Force Reductions (BFR)

In pursuance of the declaration adopted by NATO Ministers at Reykjavik in 1968 and reaffirmed in Washington in April 1969, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization undertook studies in 1969 to prepare a realistic basis for active exploration of mutual and balanced force reductions in Europe between NATO and the Warsaw Pact organization. Canada played an active role in the advancement of these studies, which by December had progressed sufficiently to permit the establishment of criteria that the ministerial meeting of the North Atlantic Council agreed any such reductions should meet. The ministers agreed that balanced force reductions must be consistent with the vital security interests of all parties, yet must be significant in size and be carried out with adequate verification and control. Further studies of measures that could accompany or follow agreement on balanced force reductions are being conducted and the preparation of possible proposals for force reductions is being pursued.