

information is now being centralized, which in his view should make it feasible to set up a system through which the proposed interim international scientific commission could work to determine whether any events which might be nuclear explosions had taken place.

The scientific information available to our delegation is that there are now between 125 and 140 stations in various parts of the world using instruments incorporating improvements devised during the last five years, largely as a result of American research in this field. We further understand that results from these stations and others is centrally and quickly processed by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Of course, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey is a national organization, although working with records supplied by many other nations. However, the section of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics interested in seismology is promoting the setting up of a truly international centre for central processing of earthquake records. The site of this centre has not as yet been selected. We are also advised that a facility of this kind could be set up very quickly, perhaps in two months, in a country which possesses the right kind of computers, has good international communications and has competent seismologists.

The Canadian delegation also notes that the representative of the U.S.A. has made it clear that his delegation is willing to consider any scientific demonstration or evidence that all significant underground nuclear tests can be detected and identified, using only existing national systems. The international scientific commission, if set up, would be able to evaluate such evidence and any demonstrations of how detection and identification would work. The Canadian delegation earnestly hopes that the nuclear powers and the Committee will find it possible to accept these suggestions — especially that we should concentrate on a solution to the nuclear test ban problem, as in our view we are called upon to do by the very important resolution of the United Nations General Assembly which I have quoted from extensively. If we do so, and if that spirit of compromise and goodwill called for in Resolution 1762 (A) are displayed, we can give the world something which will indeed make a happy new year. If we fail — I do not care to speculate on the consequences.