

The system now being designed in Geneva is intended to be the world's first effective full-scope verification system. If it is successful, it will probably set the pattern for future treaties for many years to come. On the other hand, there comes the warning, voiced by a Canadian diplomat, "We have to get it right the first time." Surely this is a task that demands care and thoroughness. It should not be left to the superpowers — no matter how well-intentioned they may be. It calls for wide discussion and input from as many sources as possible, both from within the CD, and even more important, from sources beyond the CD. There is need for contributions from the academic world, from the arms control experts, as well as from citizen groups and individuals who take a special interest in the topic.

**Responding to violations**

One area that is especially in need of discussion is the problem of how to deal with violations. According to the above agenda at the CD, it would appear that the negotiators are not considering the possibility of giving the OPCW the power to enforce its decisions by some kind of military means. It seems that they are considering other means of handling the response element of the verification process.


It may be wondered just what methods the negotiators are in fact considering for the purpose of persuading the delinquent state to rectify the violation. There are several hints as to the direction of their thinking to be gathered not only from the CD documents, but also from other treaties that have been negotiated in recent years. Any examination of the current thinking and prospects in this area, however, would be more appropriately dealt with in a separate article.

Nevertheless, let it be noted that at least some attention is being paid to the response problem. Now that the superpowers have agreed to the concept of a genuine agency for multilateral treaties, the problem of how to deal with violations has suddenly become relevant. Furthermore, the world is beginning to recognize that the future of arms control is going to depend just as much on multilateral treaties as on the bilateral variety. The importance of new ideas for designing a full-scope verification system is accordingly even more apparent.

**Role of Canada and other middle powers**

The reluctance of the middle powers at the CD to submit any comprehensive proposals dealing with evaluation and response is difficult to understand. Surely they must recognize that they are in a position to exert a strong influence on the shape of the system now being negotiated. Indeed, if a group of middle powers were to come together and work out a joint proposal, they would be in a position to conduct some real negotiations with the superpowers.

Canada has, from the beginning, been one of the most active middle powers in the area of verification systems for multilateral treaties. Some years ago, the Department of External Affairs established a verification research program which is well funded and already has an impressive output. But until recently, Canada, like many others at the CD, concentrated most of its attention on the technical aspects of verification. With the change in the position of the superpowers, there are signs that this focus is changing and that Canada will henceforth be devoting more attention to the institutional aspects of verification — the second half of the verification process. □



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