

jurisdiction in respect of areas contiguous to the territorial sea, principally the continental shelf. If a party to the treaty wishes to proceed with verification outside the twelve-mile zone but within areas of national jurisdiction of the coastal State, such verification must obviously be undertaken in consultation with the coastal State and, if it so desires, under its own observation.

ENDC/PV.429 Czechoslovakia/Lahoda

19.8.69

pp.16-19

37. That is why we place certain hope in the long-announced and fervently-awaited negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States on the limitation of both offensive and defensive missile systems. We are convinced that the success of those bilateral talks, which should start without further delay, would beneficially influence also the question of the underground test ban. Moreover, that conviction is supported by the significant fact that one of the decisive great Powers, the Soviet Union, has more than once in this Committee expressed its willingness to accept immediately an underground test ban based on verification by national means of detection.

38. The Czechoslovak delegation considers national means of detection to be completely satisfactory for the given purpose, and that a solution based on their application would be the easiest practicable, the speediest and the most effective one, because it could immediately put an end to underground testing and stop further development leading to a deterioration of the existing situation. For that reason my delegation does not regard any demand for on-site inspection or inspection on invitation as a contribution to or help in our endeavour. Such inspection is not necessary from the practical point of view and could only complicate and hinder the attainment of a timely and desirable solution.

39. In that connexion, for one thing, I should like to thank the Swedish delegation for the explanation delivered at an informal spring meeting in reply to our questions concerning the inter-relationship between the individual paragraphs of article II of the Swedish working paper ENDC/242. At the same time, however, I should like to state that the view claiming inspection upon request to be necessary in certain cases weakens the Swedish initiative, for which we have expressed our appreciation, and to a certain extent paralyzes the otherwise inspiring and constructive suggestions contained in that working paper.

40. Although we believe a complete and once-and-for-all solution of the question of the ban on underground nuclear tests to be possible and quite practicable with the safeguards of national means of detection, we are willing, in the interest of bridging contradictory attitudes towards that approach, to support also suggestions for the adoption of a ban on underground nuclear tests up to a certain level of their explosive strength, and for declaring a moratorium for explosions below that level. We hold that in the existing situation such a compromise concept has even now its justification in order that we might make progress in our negotiations. In that belief we are starting from the assumption that in case of its adoption the demands for on-site inspection in any form, which so far have been blocking all our endeavours in this field, would finally cease.

41. As for the doubts that could be voiced in connexion with the possibility of clandestine explosions of very small magnitude covered by the moratorium, we cannot take them seriously when we realize that any State considering such violation of the ban and breach of the accepted commitments would necessarily have to take into account the insupportable risk of its inadmissible activity being detected and to face the most serious international consequences, which would in no way be commensurate with the results gained by that procedure. Apart from that, one has to bear in mind that for any significant advancement of nuclear weapons a whole series of nuclear explosions of high magnitude is necessary and not only a few small explosions that could not fulfil their