

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The General Assembly Resolution

At the Twenty-Fourth United Nations General Assembly, Canada proposed a resolution, 2604A, which was adopted at the 1836th plenary meeting on December 16, 1969, by a vote of 99 to 7, with 13 abstentions. In summary form, the resolution requested the United Nations Secretary-General to circulate to governments a request that they supply information concerning seismological stations from which they would be prepared to supply records on the basis of guaranteed availability and to provide certain information about each of such stations. This resolution, which had been proposed and discussed in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD) in Geneva in 1969, was designed to assist in clarifying what resources would be available for the eventual establishment of an effective world-wide exchange of seismological information which would facilitate the achievement of a comprehensive test ban.

Very simply, therefore, the aim of the resolution was to achieve a limited first step of clarification. This modest proposal is a first step in any process whereby seismology could assist in clarifying for national states the implications of the essentially political decision involved in any form of test ban treaty.

Pursuant to Resolution 2604A, the Secretary-General circulated on January 30, 1970, a note soliciting responses to the questionnaire appended to the resolution, which specified the details concerning conventional seismograph stations and array stations that governments were invited to submit to the Secretary-General.

At the time of preparation of this analysis of the returns, 75 countries had replied to the Secretary-General's note*: 45 countries reporting information for seismograph stations on their territory, 22 countries reporting no operational seismograph stations on their territory, and 8 countries indicating that in their view the purposes of the resolution were unnecessary or preferring to maintain a voluntary form of seismological data exchange and including no data on seismograph stations in their returns. The national states in each of these categories are listed in Table 1.

1.2 Usable Data in the UN Returns

For purposes of compiling this assessment, the authors examined all data in all returns submitted by countries listed in Table 1(a). These included the summary documents, A/7967 to A/7967/Add.5, circulated by the

* This includes all returns available up to and including Document A/7967/Add.5. Numerous UN member countries remain which have submitted no return of any type (positive or negative) to the Secretary-General. Although it will be important to assess the significance of any late returns which may yet be received, based on other sources of information concerning world seismograph stations, we believe no late returns will contain station data which will significantly alter the conclusions of this assessment.