

(Mr. Dubois, Canada)

information, however, could only be obtained from countries that have conducted nuclear tests. One of the reasons for the Canadian submission and presentation in May 1993 was to attempt to prompt countries that have, or could get, the information to do so and share it with others.

In sum, the Swedish text puts down the appropriate markers with regard to airborne sensing and inspection, and ground level inspection. The operational parameters will need, however, to be further explored through trial inspections and more detailed consultations with knowledgeable experts.

It is important to utilize to the maximum extent what we have learned so far, as a foundation for our continuing efforts towards achieving a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty, as directed by the mandate of the NTB Ad Hoc Committee. To accomplish this, Canada has concluded that the time has come to provide a process whereby the input of technical experts can be more productively consolidated within our substantive work on specific and interrelated test-ban issues, including structure and scope as well as verification of compliance.

We have come to the conclusion that this can be best done by adding related technical strands to the existing seismic focus of the Group of Scientific Experts, as suggested by Australia on 24 June. We note in particular, in this context, that work needs to be done on the relevance and feasibility of atmospheric radiation, infrasound and hydroacoustic monitoring. These methodologies have data collection, analysis and dissemination requirements similar to those of a global seismic network and, thus, the GSE's experience may make that body an appropriate forum for exploration of these non-seismic methods. Of course, different technical expertise would be required to deal with these new subjects in the GSE. The GSE may also need to modify the organization of its work to accommodate these new responsibilities. In the final analysis, the GSE has been structured in such a way as to be responsive in its support of the CTBT negotiations.

To recap my comments:

As an active participant in the GSE, Canada supports the role proposed in the Swedish paper for a seismic monitoring network, although a number of the parameters of the network will need further refinement as the work of the GSE progresses.

On balance, Canada supports continued exploration in the CD of the relevance of atmospheric radionuclides monitoring for CTBT verification and the parameters of a hypothetical network for such monitoring.

Canada will remain actively committed in the CD to the role of overhead imagery for CTBT verification. Absence of this verification methodology from a CTBT text would be a serious omission.