

## ***Introduction***

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a landmark international agreement which recognizes that the cessation of all nuclear weapon test explosions and all other nuclear explosions, by constraining the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, constitutes an effective measure of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. It also mandates an intrusive verification regime of extensive and thorough monitoring, and obligatory on-site inspections (OSI) of suspected breaches of the Treaty.

The CTBT has been a longstanding priority of successive Canadian Governments, which have considered it an important step on the road to nuclear disarmament. Canada signed the CTBT on September 24, 1996, the day it opened for signature. A Memorandum to Cabinet (MC) seeking authority to ratify the agreement and to proceed with the necessary actions, both interim and in the longer term, to meet Canada's obligations was approved prior to the signing of the Treaty. The *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Implementation Act*, which is necessary for Canada to ratify the Treaty, is expected to be tabled in Parliament in Fall 1998. The CTBT Act implements Canada's obligations under the Treaty including the creation of the National Authority.

## **CTBT National Authority**

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Article III - Section 3) provides that a State Party to the Treaty shall set up a National Authority to serve as that State's focal point for liaison with the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), located in Vienna, and other States Party.

Canada is effecting its treaty obligations by undertaking the following initiatives:

- Canada's CTBT National Authority has been set up to interface effectively between Canada and the CTBTO and other States Party.
- All pertinent measures are being taken to prohibit any person anywhere in Canada or in any other place under its jurisdiction or control from undertaking any activity prohibited under this Treaty.
- Treaty specified facilities, International Monitoring System (IMS) stations and laboratories, have already been or in the process of being established:
  - to provide data obtained from these facilities in Canada to the CTBTO and other States Party,
  - to participate, as appropriate, in consultation and clarification processes,
  - to cooperate in the conduct of on-site inspections as specified in the Treaty, and
  - to participate, as appropriate, in confidence-building measures (CBM).