

initiated to improve and complement the activities of the Scientific Committee. I am confident that we can look forward to an increasing understanding of what exactly the radiation hazard means to humanity. Meanwhile there is no question that man-made radiation has been distributed throughout the world as a result of fall-out from nuclear weapons tests. If we can put a definitive end to these tests, we shall certainly relieve peoples everywhere of an oppressive fear and of a very real danger.

It is also true that an observed nuclear test treaty will constitute an impediment to the arms race for the quite simple reason that, without the indispensable step of operational testing, weapons technology cannot be significantly advanced. Thus a controlled international agreement would introduce an element of stability into the overall armaments picture. It would make it difficult for additional nations to acquire a nuclear capability. It would also help to develop mutual confidence between those happily few great states which now possess nuclear arms. Such an agreement would be of immense value in providing a working model of a verification system, with possible applications in the disarmament field. Accordingly, it is to be expected that a nuclear test treaty would have an important and beneficial psychological impact on the international climate generally and on East-West disarmament negotiations in particular.

It will be readily seen that while the suspension of tests is not a disarmament measure, it does in fact have a direct bearing on the vital question of national security. This is so because any treaty which might leave open the possibility that one side could with impunity conduct clandestine tests - thus perfecting its nuclear capability - would run the grave risk of encouraging the offending state to take a chance on aggression once it felt that a sufficient advantage had been gained from its hidden activities. Even if no state were in fact taking such advantage of its opportunity to cheat on an agreement, the situation would continue to be one of mutual suspicion. International tension, far from being eased, would remain acute.

It is obvious that agreement on effective inspection and verification is fundamental to the conclusion of an international agreement to end tests. A very great responsibility, therefore, rests on the three