Proposal Abstract K24(A76)

1. Arms Control Problem:

Nuclear weapons - comprehensive test ban - peaceful nuclear explosions

2. Verification Type: Seismic sensors

3. Source:

Bolt, Bruce A. Nuclear Explosions and Earthquakes: The Parted Veil. San Francisco: W.H. Freeman, 1976.

4. Summary:

This work focusses on underground nuclear explosions. It is written with the non-expert in mind and covers the following areas:

- (1) The history of international negotiations regarding a test ban.
- (2) Background information on the scientific principles involved in nuclear explosions in general as well as specifically those underground.

(3) Background information on seismology.

- (4) Discussion of seismic monitoring capabilities (The identification capability in the Northern Hemisphere was about magnitude 4.5 by 1975 using unclassified seismological networks, according to Bolt).
- (5) Discussion of evasion tactics such as concealment in natural earthquakes, simulation, and decoupling.
- (6) The history and potential of peaceful nuclear explosions (PNEs are likely to prove attractive for excavation of water storage, irrigation and large-scale quarrying purposes, concludes Bolt).
- (7) The environmental dangers of underground tests.