

24. Therefore the United States draft would not ensure freedom from fear in countries with less developed under-sea technology which apprehended that they might be threatened by weapons or military installations in an adjacent area of the sea-bed. This is not a position which my delegation is prepared to accept. I hope, therefore, that the verification article will provide, with necessary safeguards, reasonable access to all emplacements on the sea-bed.

25. A further question is how the right of verification is to be exercised. It is now generally recognized, we feel, that this right could be exercised by a party to the treaty either with its own resources or, if it did not have the capability, with the full or partial assistance of another State. In this connexion it has been stated by the United States delegation that "it is not desirable at this time to spell out explicit provisions — that is to say, commitments — for providing third-party assistance." (ENDC/PV.421, para.49). It has also been argued that no obligation or open-ended commitment could be placed on States to provide third-party assistance, for reasons both of principle and of the tremendous cost and technical difficulties involved in such assistance (*ibid.*, para.50). The Soviet delegation seems to agree with this view (ENDC/PV.423, para.36). Those of us who have insisted on the right of each party to the treaty to carry out verification with the full or partial assistance of another State have suggested, not that parties to the treaty should be placed under an obligation to assist, but only that the right to seek such assistance from parties willing to assist should be recognized and that this should be clearly provided for in the verification article. This is an essential provision for the technologically less advanced countries which form the vast majority of the countries of the world.

26. In this context some of us have suggested international means of verification to ensure the strict observance of the provisions of the treaty. My delegation has noted that the United States delegation has expressed the view that it regards a special international verification organization as both premature and wasteful of resources because it would amount to setting up an organization equipped to perform tasks which we are not ready to undertake and of which we have so little experience (ENDC/PV.421, para.48). The Soviet delegation agreed with this when it said:

"The use of international means of verification would greatly complicate the problem of control, and the control machinery itself would most probably be cumbersome and inflexible. It should also be noted that the adoption of an international system of control would require substantial funds and appropriate personnel that could be used for other, more urgent needs." (ENDC/PV.409, para.45)

27. While my delegation fully appreciates the concern of the sponsors of the two drafts before us about technical difficulties and financial costs, it is not clear to us why, if the existing technological "know-how" and capacity are adequate for emplacing structures and installations on the sea-bed, they should not also be adequate for verifying what is emplaced. As regards the question of expense, a viable procedure could be devised which would not entail inordinately large expenditure. In this connexion my delegation finds the suggestion made by the Canadian delegation at our meeting on 31 July for organizing verification through the United Nations (ENDC/PV.424, paras.29, 30) interesting and would commend it for most serious consideration by this Committee. In the view of the delegation of India, the principle of verification through suitable international machinery or agency or arrangement is essentially sound and would go very far in the direction of removing suspicions, lessening tension and creating an international atmosphere of trust. The Canadian suggestion shows how this could be done.

28. Before concluding my remarks on the subject of verification, it is necessary to state that my delegation agrees with the view expressed by some delegations that the treaty must recognize that coastal States have rights of national sovereignty and national