

continue increasing.

Obviously, it is not an alleged verification problem that prevents progress towards a complete nuclear-weapon-test ban. As we all know, there is today every possibility to verify compliance with a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests.

Nevertheless, we have been asked over and over again here in this Conference to study in depth the verification issues of a test ban.

Effective verification arrangements, however, can only be elaborated in the framework of the negotiation of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests. It cannot be done by a subsidiary body whose mandate has been limited by a few delegations to a mere examination of verification issues. In the absence of real negotiations, declarations can hardly be expected to bridge existing differences on certain issues of a nuclear-test ban only in a framework of discussions.

Thus, the Ad Hoc Working Group on a Nuclear Test Ban could hardly do more than it did in 1982 and 1983. As was stated in its report of last year (CD/412), "a large number of delegations considered that the Ad Hoc Working Group had fulfilled its mandate by discussing and defining all the issues relating to verification and compliance of a nuclear-test ban".

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p.17

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New Zealand remains ready to play its part in this process. Here too our geographic location has relevance, for New Zealand and Australia are the only two Southern Hemisphere countries with a past and continuing capacity to contribute to the efforts of the Ad Hoc Group of Seismic Experts. Similarly, New Zealand and Australia are the only two countries that offer network data from seismograph stations in Antarctica. New Zealand thus contributes directly to the work of the Ad Hoc Group, and, we hope, also towards the creation of a CTB.

We hope that it will be the decision of this session of the Conference on Disarmament that the Ad Hoc Group will remain in existence, and will continue to meet at least annually. If so, New Zealand will wish to continue to participate in, and contribute to, the Ad Hoc Group's deliberations. Meanwhile members should continue the work necessary for a successful outcome of the proposed technical test for the exchange and analysis of Level I Data using the WMO/GTS under a regular use basis. The successful completion of this test, will, we believe, be a further tangible sign that progress continues to be made by the Ad Hoc Group at a technical level. However, to make further significant progress in future, it is now urgent that full agreement be reached on a "comprehensive experimental exercise" which would adequately test all aspects of the global system, including the full seismograph network, data transmission procedures and facilities, and data collection operations.

New Zealand has also indicated its wish to participate in other Working Groups within the Conference on Disarmament and especially in the subsidiary body that should be established to move towards the negotiation of a CTB. We call now on all parties to redouble their efforts to formulate a wider mandate for the NTB Group that will allow real progress to be made.

In the United Nations General Assembly New Zealand and Australia initiated and proposed resolution 38/63 which was adopted with 117 votes in favour and not one vote against. This resolution requested the Conference on Disarmament:

(a) to resume its examination of issues relating to a CTB with a view to the negotiation of a treaty on the subject and, in accordance with the 1983 Report on the work of the Committee under this item, to take up the question of a revised mandate for the