

rather than a number, especially when we think about the different detection and identification capabilities regarding underground explosions in different parts of the world. In the meantime, as I have mentioned above, a special bilateral arrangement could be worked out within the framework of our multilateral agreement, among States wishing to make the most of their national technical means.

There are certainly other questions to be addressed in a substantive manner, and we welcome a discussion in the ad hoc committee when it is established. While waiting for an in-depth discussion on our proposal, I would like to put forward for your consideration some of the concrete steps which my delegation thinks indispensable for its implementation.

First, it is necessary to define the existing multilateral verification capabilities with regard to both detection and identification. We need this because we have to be very clear about what it is that can be multilaterally verified and therefore can be effectively prohibited. We all know that a valuable report has been presented to this Conference by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts on the basis of its intensive research concerning international co-operative measures to detect and identify seismic events. And I wish to suggest that the Ad Hoc Group should be entrusted with this new assignment, hopefully within a specified time-limit, to look for and establish a range or a group of seismic events about which we can tell, with a certain degree of confidence, on the basis of existing technical capabilities, that they are really nuclear explosions. The results of an experimental exercise should be brought to bear upon these technical findings. Also from the point of view of facilitating this new task of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts, my delegation would like to make an appeal to the nuclear-weapon States to publish the data about their nuclear explosions to the extent possible -- their time, location, yield, etc. This would greatly assist the Ad Hoc Group in their work of calibration and enhance the credibility of their findings. Besides being a great help, the publication of nuclear explosions data could also serve as a confidence-building measure -- an indication of willingness on the part of the publishing States to accelerate the process for an effective mutual test ban.

Secondly, parallel to our work of defining the existing verification capabilities we should decide on ways and means for their improvement. Only concentrated international efforts to make steady improvements of our ability can justify this approach, which we have called a next-best approach, of starting out by outlawing nuclear explosions at a level corresponding to our present capacity to verify. Thus, enhancing our ability is an integral part of our gradual approach. It is out of this consideration that Japan is working on another Working Paper which tries to examine the relevant technical steps as well as the costs involved in upgrading the current seismic network and the associated communication system to a somewhat more efficient one as indicated by the Ad Hoc Group of Seismic Experts in the past. I hope that we shall be in a position to present such a paper in due course.

These two exercises, in our view, will simultaneously call for an in-depth examination of institutional arrangements to supervise all these and other related activities. The sort of mechanism for the administration of such arrangements which should be set up, in terms of its function and composition, will also have to be discussed and agreed upon. In the event of the establishment of such a mechanism, it would be appropriate to provide for a review of its work and to formulate its future plans at a certain period of time in order to pave the way for an effective zero threshold.

It is our hope that once we have worked out a scheme with the combination of these steps -- the determination of existing verification capabilities and means for their improvement as well as effective administration of an international verification organ -- we will be in a much clearer position to make the necessary judgement as to the steps required to realize a more comprehensive test ban. In presenting our proposal my dele-