

threaten to bring down the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime in the quest for an amendment which, however well intentioned, in reality gives no promise of producing a global, comprehensive and verifiable test ban is, quite simply, irresponsible.⁶

Mr. Bild went on to say that it was, however, very important to continue to remain relentless and single-minded in preparing the ground for a comprehensive test ban. He also stated that we must prepare for the time when the nuclear powers realize that such a ban is in their security interests. Mr. Bild was convinced that circumstances will change in this regard and explained what we should do in the meantime:

The trepidation the nuclear powers and the rest of us will undoubtedly feel in taking tentative steps into the post-nuclear weapons era will largely be assuaged by assurances that no one is cheating. That is why improvement and refinement of our ability to monitor adequately such a ban should remain paramount on the multilateral disarmament agenda. We need to continue energetically experimentation with, and testing of, seismic data exchanges. Only by improving the expertise and coordination with which seismic events can be globally monitored will a level of verification be reached that is comforting and assuring to all. Let us not be caught in a position where the nuclear powers are ready to call a halt to their testing but the required verification instruments are not yet in place.⁷

On 20 October 1989, in a statement to the UN First Committee, Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament, Ms. Peggy Mason, explained the Canadian Government's position on efforts to convert the PTBT into a CTBT:

Because of its strong support for treaty-specific verification measures and in light of the procedures that regulate amendments to the PTBT, Canada did not view the initiative for an amending conference as likely to be either helpful or productive. However, now that the conference is to take place, we will, of course, participate constructively.⁸

The Forty-fourth Session of the UN General Assembly in December 1989 passed three resolutions concerning test bans. Resolution 44/105 called upon the CD to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate a test ban, comprising two Working Groups -- one on compliance and verification and another on content and scope. The resolution was adopted by a vote of

6 *Ibid.*

7 *Ibid.*, p. 31.

8 "Statement by Ambassador Mason before the First Committee." *The Disarmament Bulletin* (Fall 1989), p. 15.