

“It is of direct importance to the future of humanity to end all nuclear explosions. No other means would be as effective in limiting the further development of nuclear weapons.”

For several years, Canada has been one of the “inner core” of co-sponsors of a U.N. resolution on the urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. The resolution reaffirms that a treaty prohibiting all nuclear-test explosions in all environments is a matter of the greatest importance. As the resolution itself states, a CTB would:

“...constitute a vital element for the success of efforts to halt and reverse the nuclear-arms race and the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons, and to prevent the expansion of existing nuclear arsenals and the spread of nuclear weapons to additional countries.”

The realization of an effective multilateral Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is a fundamental and abiding objective of Canada's arms control and disarmament policy. We believe that a CTB is a concrete and realistic measure that would contribute significantly to halting the nuclear arms race by prohibiting the testing of nuclear weapons.

Canada is working to overcome the significant political and technical obstacles to a CTB, not least of which involves the verification of an eventual treaty. We participated in a 40-nation International Seismic Data Exchange (ISDE) designed to determine the scope and capability for seismic verification of a CTB (see next chapter). This is the sort of steady background work that will form the foundation for the eventual negotiation of a CTB.

The second Canadian initiative has been sponsorship of a resolution calling for the prohibition of the production of fissionable materials for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices. This resolution has been consistently gaining support in the international community. The resolution requests the Conference on Disarmament to pursue an adequately verified cessation and prohibition of the production of fissionable material.

A ban on the production of fissionable material would prevent the development and production of nuclear weapons, while a Comprehensive Test Ban would prevent nuclear testing of any sort. These two measures would thus constitute significant