

Proposals for Compromise

There are three basic elements in the compromise suggested by the eight powers:

First, a detection system based on existing national networks, with new posts if necessary;

Second, the establishment of an international scientific commission to process the data yielded by these stations, and

Third, the obligation for states parties to the agreement to provide adequate assurances that a suspicious event on their territory is not in fact a nuclear explosion.

As far as we can see, the combination of an improved system of national detection stations, plus an international establishment to collect and analyse the data received from them, provides a satisfactory technical basis for an agreement acceptable to both sides. The crucial question which remains is how to deal with doubtful events that may be detected on the territory of one of the parties to the treaty. The United States representative made an important suggestion at the beginning of last week, when he proposed that the latest scientific data provided by recent research be thoroughly reviewed in this Committee and that in the detailed examination of this information qualified experts from all delegations should participate.

I believe that a discussion of this sort should be held and held just as soon as possible; it could lay the foundation for an agreement acceptable to all concerned. The conclusion of a treaty to halt tests for all time not only would be of immeasurable importance as a first step in halting the arms race, but would also create the right atmosphere for constructive progress in other areas of disarmament.

In the field of what are called collateral measures, I also believe there is now a prospect that this Conference can take steps forward in the weeks to come.

To Halt Dissemination

I am happy that the Conference has now embarked on an active discussion in the Committee of the Whole of measures for the prohibition of the wider dissemination of nuclear weapons and the prevention of accidental war.

In approaching the problem of preventing the wider spread of nuclear weapons, we can draw encouragement from the fact that through their support for the Irish resolution, which, as you all know, was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly last year, all governments represented at this table are already on record as favouring the adoption of effective measures in this field. Every day increases the likelihood that nuclear weapons will eventually