

Security Council of the United Nations. They have also agreed that, as in other arms limitation agreements, there will be provision for withdrawal from the treaty on the grounds of supreme national interests. They have also agreed that the treaty should enter into force upon ratification by twenty signatory governments, including those of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States.

12. The parties are considering formulations relating to the duration of the treaty. They envisage that a conference will be held at an appropriate time to review the operation of the treaty. Decisions at the conference will require a majority of the parties to the treaty, which majority shall include all parties that are permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations.

13. The negotiating parties, recognizing the importance of verification, have agreed that a variety of verification measures should be provided to enhance confidence that all parties to the treaty are in strict compliance with it. Such measures in the treaty itself, and the additional measures under negotiation to facilitate verification of compliance with the treaty, must first be agreed in principle, and then drafted in detail, which is of course a laborious process. It must be done with care because the implementation of these measures will have important impact not only on ensuring compliance with the treaty, but also on political relations among its parties.

14. It has been agreed that the parties will use national technical means of verification at their disposal in a manner consistent with generally recognized principles of international law to verify compliance with the treaty, and that each party will undertake not to interfere with such means of verification.

15. It has long been recognized that co-operative seismic monitoring measures can make an important contribution to verifying compliance with the treaty. The Committee on Disarmament and its predecessors have played a leading role in developing such measures. On the basis of the work done in the past few years under those auspices, the negotiating parties have agreed to provisions establishing an International Exchange of Seismic Data. Each treaty party will have the right to participate in this exchange, to contribute data from designated seismic stations on its territory, and to receive all the seismic data made available through the International Exchange. Seismic data will be transmitted through the Global Telecommunications System of the World Meteorological

Organization or through other agreed communications channels. International seismic data centres will be established in agreed locations, taking into account the desirability of appropriate geographical distribution.

16. A Committee of Experts will be established to consider questions related to the International Seismic Data Exchange and all treaty parties will be entitled to appoint representatives to participate in the work of the Committee. The Committee of Experts will be responsible for developing detailed arrangements for establishing and operating the International Exchange, drawing on the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Group of Scientific Experts, which was established under the auspices of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and has continued its work under the Committee on Disarmament. Arrangements for establishing and operating the International Exchange will include the development of standards for the technical and operational characteristics of participating seismic stations and international seismic data centres, for the form in which data are transmitted to the centres, and for the form and manner in which the centres make seismic data available to the participants and respond to their requests for additional seismic data regarding specified seismic events.

17. In addition to its role in setting up the International Exchange, the Committee of Experts will have ongoing responsibility for facilitating the implementation of the International Exchange, for reviewing its operation and considering improvements to it, and for considering technological developments that have a bearing on its operation. The Committee will serve as a forum in which treaty parties may exchange technical information and co-operate in promoting the effectiveness of the International Exchange. The Committee of Experts will hold its first meeting not later than 90 days after the entry into force of the treaty and will meet thereafter as it determines.

18. The negotiating parties have agreed to other co-operative measures as well. There will be provision in the treaty for direct consultations, and for the exchange of inquiries and responses among treaty parties in order to resolve questions that may arise concerning treaty compliance. If a party has questions regarding an event on the territory of any other party, it may request an on-site inspection for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the event was a nuclear explosion. The requesting party shall state the