

Concern has been expressed by a few delegations, including mine, over the possibility that some of the States possessing a chemical weapons capability might not adhere to the convention, or that activities which would undermine the objectives of the convention might be carried out on the territories of non-parties. These are problems that will need to be given careful attention by the Conference. Our proposal in CD/752 seeks to address these concerns by assuring States parties facing a chemical weapons threat from any source, whether a party or non-party, of assistance from other States parties. The question of the responsibility of States parties for the activities of their persons, whether natural or legal, on the territory of non-parties is also relevant in this context. There is, moreover, the wider question of what States parties can do collectively about a State party which violates the convention, or about a non-party which retains or acquires a chemical weapons capability.

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The progress report which the Ad hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events prepared on its twenty-fourth session has now been distributed as document CD/778. The delegation of the German Democratic Republic appreciates the efforts the Group made towards a blueprint for a modern international system for the exchange of seismic data. The Group of Socialist States gives its approval to the report. We thank the Chairman, Mr. Dahlman, and the members of the Ad hoc Group for their work on a highly sophisticated scientific and technological matter.

It is my delegation's understanding that the expeditious exchange of seismic data will be a very important measure to complement verification of compliance with a future comprehensive ban on nuclear weapon tests by national technical means under an effective system of international co-operation.

As can be gathered from the Ad hoc Group's report, solutions are being considered that go far beyond the generally acknowledged scope of seismological research. It appears desirable, therefore, that the Group should not confine itself to just one possible solution. Rather, different options should be worked out, annotated by detailed information about their potential and ways to translate them into action. In fact, this will be needed before any concrete decision on the future data exchange system can be made. I think it would be correct to assume that initial conditions will not be the same everywhere in the world.

We note that the Ad hoc Group has not yet arrived at a full consensus on the best way of devising such a system. Goal-oriented scientific technological studies are required in order to establish and eventually operate a properly functioning exchange of seismic data within the framework of a verification system for a nuclear test ban.

As for the proposed experiment on the exchange of level II seismic data, my delegation shares the view of the Ad hoc Group that the overall concept of the system should be developed under a step-by-step process. It endorses the scientific experts' suggestion concerning the dates of their next session. As in the past, the delegation of the German Democratic Republic will continue to lend active support to the efforts of the Ad hoc Group.