

CURRENT CANADIAN POSITION

Further limitations on nuclear testing have been a priority item on the Canadian Government's agenda, a CTBT remaining one of its six major goals in arms control and disarmament during 1989 and 1990. Canada has contributed to this goal in various ways in the recent past.

Since 1976, Canada has participated in the work of the Group of Scientific Experts (GSE), a CD body charged with examining the specifications of a global technical data system acceptable to all the parties to a comprehensive test ban. In 1985, the Federal Government awarded a grant to the University of Toronto for further research on the use of regional seismic data for verification of a CTBT. In 1986, the Government approved a sum of over \$3 million in order to upgrade a seismic array station in Yellowknife as a contribution towards test ban verification. In October 1986, Canada also hosted a technical workshop to support the GSE work on the international exchange of seismic data. Attended by forty-three representatives from seventeen countries, the workshop produced specific technical recommendations on the methods, protocols and formats for seismic waveform exchange. The workshop's proceedings were tabled by Canada in the CD on 28 April 1987.³

From 11 to 14 September 1989, Canada hosted a workshop for about thirty members of the GSE in Yellowknife. The purpose of this technical workshop was to give participants the opportunity to evaluate the progress made on data exchange, to discuss outstanding problems and to prepare the second phase of the second international seismic data exchange, which began in January 1990 under the leadership of Peter Basham, a Canadian. The presence of some GSE members in Canada coincided with the opening of the modernized seismological array in Yellowknife.⁴

On 20 June 1989, Mr. Fred Bild, the Assistant Deputy Minister of External Affairs for Political and International Security Affairs, spoke at the CD on the attempt to convert the PTBT into a CTBT. Pointing out the possible implications of submitting a summary request for amendment to the PTBT's Depository States, Mr. Bild stated that it was dangerous to force the parties to an arms control agreement to accept radical amendments to such agreements if there is no consensus.⁵ He added:

The very future of the existing agreement may be placed in jeopardy. Even more disconcerting is the apparent readiness of at least some to tie this call for a PTBT amendment conference to the future continuation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Any such efforts should be firmly resisted. I cannot think of a better example of throwing the baby out with the bath-water. To

³ CD/753, 28 April 1987.

⁴ "Modernized Yellowknife Array Opened." *The Disarmament Bulletin* (Fall 1989), pp. 1-2.

⁵ "Crisis de crédibilité," Statement by the Assistant Deputy Minister for Political and International Security Affairs. *The Disarmament Bulletin* (Spring-Summer 1989), p. 30.