

K14(G71)

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Proposal Abstract K14(G71)

1. Arms Control Problem:

Nuclear weapons - comprehensive test ban

2. Verification Type:

- (a) Seismic sensors - intra-border stations
- (b) Short-range sensors - monitoring devices

3. Source:

Japan. CCD/PV.497, 2 March 1971.
See also: - Mexico. CCD/PV.504, 25 March 1971.
- Japan. CCD/PV.801, 17 August 1978.
- Japan. CD/PV.16, 6 March 1979.

4. Summary:

Japan resurrects the notion of using automatic seismic stations ("black boxes") to monitor a test ban. Mexico took up the Japanese idea and referred to the 1962 Soviet proposal* to install on its territory two or three automatic seismic stations. These devices would have been installed and maintained by Soviet personnel. Mexico called on the USSR to renew its proposal and on the US to accept the idea as a basis for negotiation.

5. Selected Comments of States:

The Soviet Union** reacted to this call by pointing to the American rejection of the earlier proposal and by claiming that there was no evidence that reopening the discussion on black boxes would be fruitful.

The US in a number of statements*** asserted that it was continuing to conduct research on the feasibility and problems of developing tamper-resistant, tamper indicating, low maintenance, unattended seismic observatories. As a result of this research, the American position regarding "black boxes" was that, while they might be a useful addition to verification capabilities, they were not equivalent to on-site inspection.

* ENDC/Sc. 1/PV. 43.

** CCD/PV.536, 7 September 1971.

*** See for example: CCD/PV.580, 24 August 1972 and CCD/404, 5 July 1973.