

Another unofficial proposal has to do with verification, and has been called citizen reporting. It is conceived as a "soft-technology" supplement to such high-technology verification methods as satellites or seismology, and to such politically sensitive methods as on-site inspection.

Any significant violation of a disarmament treaty, by secret rearming or forbidden deployment or other deception, would be a large-scale project, and therefore many people would know about it (those working on the project, at least, and perhaps their families and close friends, or neighbours to the site). Among these people "in the know," at least one would almost certainly be willing to inform the international inspectors about his/her government's illegal activities. The motive might be respect for international law, desire for peace, or a sense of world citizenship and responsibility; countervailing motives would be nationalism and fear of punishment. To counteract the fear of punishment, procedures must be installed to protect the informer's anonymity, and in case of discovery give him or her asylum. There could be a procedure in which everyone periodically deposits a slip of paper in ballot boxes; most papers would be blank, but a few would contain information. The inspectors would sort the crank messages from the valuable tips and follow up the latter. In questionnaire surveys in several countries (Galtung, 1967), many of the people say that they would inform international inspectors about their government's illegal activities. The percentage would undoubtedly go up if, as part of the disarmament treaty proclamation, each national government were required to broadcast to their own citizens a plea to report to the inspectors any suspicions regarding violations that come to their attention. This would make informing seem legitimate rather than treasonous (Deutsch, 1963), and overcome any nationalist objection a person might