

# The Disarmament Bulletin

A review of Canada's arms control and disarmament activities

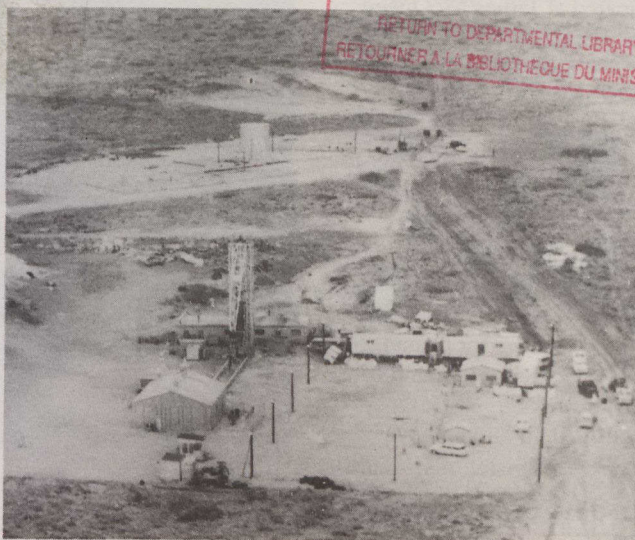
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## Nuclear Test Ban Negotiations in Sight

On August 10, the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament (CD) gave its *Ad Hoc* Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban a general mandate to negotiate a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty (CTBT). This followed US President Bill Clinton's July 3 announcement that the Administration is extending the current moratorium on US nuclear weapon testing through September 1994, provided no other state tests during that period. CD members, including Canada, are now defining the organization of and a specific mandate for CTBT negotiations. The goal is to begin negotiations in January 1994.

Canada has long advocated a nuclear test ban as a central arms control objective and thus wholeheartedly supports the US and CD decisions. The plan to negotiate a CTBT comes at a particularly important juncture as a number of countries have linked the conclusion of a CTBT and indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) when the latter comes up for review in 1995. While Canada firmly rejects that linkage as an element of the NPT extension process, there is no doubt that continued testing would complicate the process of extending indefinitely the NPT.

Canada has urged the other nuclear weapon states to respond positively to the US initiative to extend the moratorium on testing. Russian President Boris Yeltsin has confirmed the continuance of Russia's nuclear testing moratorium and has indicated Russia's willingness to proceed with CTBT negotiations. France, which has been observing a testing moratorium since April 1992, has said that it favours a CTBT as long as the treaty is universal and verifiable. The UK has not pronounced itself in favour of CTBT negotiations but, since it tests only in Nevada, is



Surface preparations for an underground nuclear test at the Nevada site.

caught in the US unilateral ban. China, which last tested in September 1992, has said that it supports a ban on nuclear tests "within the framework of complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons."

A US law passed last year sets September 30, 1996 as the target date for completion of a CTBT.

## CD Can Contribute to CTBT

The following are excerpts from the statement delivered to the Conference on Disarmament on August 5 by Canadian representative Paul Dubois.

In early July, Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton announced the extension of the moratoria on nuclear testing. The

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