

favoured seismic methods, since they are less "intrusive," not requiring the presence of inspectors at the actual test site. However, the USSR has also indicated its willingness to accept a small number of on-site inspections, if necessary, to calibrate seismic equipment.

American critics of their government's position on nuclear testing charge that the US is biased against seismic methods because, unlike hydrodynamic measurements, they could be used to monitor a comprehensive test ban – a goal which the Reagan administration has relegated to the distant future.

The results of the experiment will be analyzed and taken into account in completing verification protocols to the US-Soviet Threshold Test Ban and Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaties of 1974 and 1976, respectively. These treaties, which limit underground nuclear explosions to 150 kilotons in yield, have yet to be ratified because of US insistence on first strengthening their verification provisions. According to a year-old agreement, the next step will be to negotiate "intermediate limitations" on nuclear testing, such as further reductions in their yield or number. However, a report by President Reagan to Congress in late September cast doubt on the US administration's previously expressed commitment to reduce testing in parallel with nuclear arms reductions. The report denied that there was any "direct technical relationship" between the number of tests needed and the size of nuclear arsenals. It also maintained that the need for testing could actually rise in the context of arms reductions, to ensure that the remaining weapons were reliable. And it stated that any new limits on testing would be acceptable only in the context of a "major reduction in the threat to the US and our allies brought about by a significant alteration in the international environment."

Chemical Weapons Control

■ Reports of the use of chemical weapons (CW) by Iraq in its war against Iran, and also against its

own Kurdish insurgency, persisted throughout the summer. On 1 August, a UN team sent to the area reported that Iraqi use of such weapons, in violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol on chemical

dorsed three days later by French President Mitterand, who also called for an "embargo on all deliveries of products, technologies and more generally, weapons" to any state using chemical weapons.

Early Warning

29 November 1988:	three-week session of CD's ad hoc committee on chemical weapons begins, Geneva.
7 to 11 January 1989:	conference on the 1925 Geneva Protocol on chemical weapons, Paris.
February 1989:	Spring session of the CD begins, Geneva.

weapons, had become "more intense and more frequent." Since 1984, six different UN fact-finding teams have confirmed chemical weapons use in the Gulf War. Iraq did not admit such use against Iran until July, and has never acknowledged using chemical weapons against its own Kurdish rebels. On 26 August, the UN Security Council condemned the use of chemical weapons in the war and asked the UN Secretary-General to investigate promptly any future allegations. It also pledged to take "effective and appropriate measures" when allegations are confirmed. However, on 16 September, Iraq refused a request by Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar to admit a UN team to investigate Kurdish allegations. Both houses of the US Congress have voted overwhelmingly to impose sanctions on Iraq unless the US President certifies that Iraq has ceased using chemical weapons and will allow on-site inspections by impartial observers.

In his farewell speech to the UN on 26 September, President Reagan called on the parties to the Geneva Protocol, as well as other states, to convene a conference "to consider actions that we can take together to reverse the serious erosion of this treaty." Examples later given by the US State Department were the drafting of detailed provisions for UN investigations of alleged violations, and protocols for controlling the sale of chemicals to states violating the agreement. The proposed conference was en-

On 20 October, France announced that, as the depositary of the Geneva Protocol, it would hold a conference of foreign ministers in Paris from 7 to 11 January to reaffirm and strengthen the agreement.

Meanwhile, efforts continue in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva to conclude a global Convention banning the development, production, stockpiling, transfer, and use of chemical weapons. At the CD on 28 July, in what it described as "another major step toward greater openness," the US for the first time identified its five past and present chemical weapons production sites, including the types of chemicals produced at each plant and the procedures for destroying the installations under a Convention. It also endorsed a Soviet proposal for a multilateral experiment to conduct trial inspections of civilian chemical plants. By the end of the summer, a number of states, including East and West Germany and Japan, had joined with the superpowers in agreeing to begin trial inspections on a national basis before the end of the year, as a prelude to an international exchange of inspectors. The chief US delegate, noting that the CD was now spending about ninety percent of its time on the chemical weapons negotiations, predicted on 16 September that they "could move very close to concluding a treaty next year."

Brief Notes

■ The first of 1,752 Soviet and 859 US intermediate-range missiles to be eliminated under the

INF Treaty were destroyed on 22 July and 8 September, respectively. Also in accordance with the agreement, "baseline inspections" of all missile operating bases and support facilities to verify the initial exchange of data were completed by 1 September. Soviet inspectors had visited twenty-six installations in the US and Western Europe, US inspectors 133 installations in the USSR, East Germany, and Czechoslovakia.

■ In a speech to the UN General Assembly on 27 September, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze proposed a number of measures for strengthening the UN's role in arms control, including an international monitoring and verification agency and a conventional arms transfers register. He also called for a multilateral agreement to limit the proliferation of ballistic missile technology. US and Soviet officials held their first bilateral meeting on the latter subject, as called for at the Moscow Summit, in Washington on 26 September.

■ In a speech in Krasnoyarsk on 16 September, Mikhail Gorbachev reaffirmed a Soviet pledge not to increase the number of its nuclear weapons in the Asia-Pacific region, calling on others to do likewise. He also proposed a freeze on naval forces in the region; reducing naval and air force activity in the Yellow and Japan Seas; a multilateral, regional Incidents-at-Sea agreement; and the creation of a negotiating mechanism for Asian-Pacific security. Finally, he offered to give up the Soviet Navy's "material and technical supply station" at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, if the US agreed to eliminate its military bases in the Philippines. The latter proposal was immediately rejected by the US, in the midst of negotiations (successfully concluded in October) with the Philippine government over the future of the bases. □

– RON PURVER