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Verification of a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban

Report on the Workshop on Seismological Aspects of Nuclear Test Ban Verification in Oslo, Norway, 14-17 February 1990

A Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban (CTB) must be accompanied by effective verification measures aimed at ensuring that nuclear explosions do not take place in any environment, i.e. in the atmosphere, in space, underwater and underground. Seismology is the principal tool for detecting and identifying underground nuclear explosions, and thus forms the basis for CTB monitoring in the underground environment. This is the background for the workshop on seismological aspects of nuclear test ban verification which was held in Oslo, Norway, 14-17 February 1990.

The workshop was hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and organized by the Norwegian Seismic Array (NORSAR) in co-operation with the Norwegian Council on Arms Control and Disarmament.

The objective of the workshop was, through briefings and demonstrations on seismological facilities in Norway, and through presentation of recent research achievements, to shed further light on seismological verification aspects of a comprehensive nuclear test ban.

The workshop was attended by 76 scientists and representatives from 21 countries, including a large number of seismologists participating in the work of the Conference on Disarmament's Group of Scientific Experts (GSE) in Geneva. Ambassador Miljan Komatina, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, participated as a special guest on the basis of an invitation by the Norwegian Government.

In his welcoming address the Norwegian State Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Knut Vollebaek, stated that the holding of this workshop in Oslo demonstrated the great importance which the Government of Norway attaches to the Conference on Disarmament and to Norway's participation in the Conference. He stressed that an efficient verification is a vital component of a test ban, both in order to ensure compliance and to build confidence. With reference to