

authorized to use three methods of verification: hydrodynamic methods for explosions with planned yields above 50 kt; on-site inspections for explosions with planned yields above 35 kt; and seismic methods for group explosions above 150 kt.

The verification protocols to the TTBT and the PNET are almost identical. The only significant difference concerns the use of seismic recording methods. In the case of the TTBT, these can be used in countries carrying out the explosion, but only from three designated off-site seismic stations. This method is authorized for tests with planned yields above 50 kt. Both protocols also contain a time schedule for notifying the other party of any explosion exceeding the agreed yield.

Additional efforts to limit nuclear testing have been made in multilateral forums. In 1983, the UN Conference on Disarmament (CD) established a CTBT working group. Now called the Ad Hoc Committee, the group has been unable to agree on a program of work and has not met since 1983.

Despite the inability of the CD to agree on a mandate for the Ad Hoc Committee, a special group of scientific experts associated with the CD has been working since 1976. The Group of Scientific Experts (GSE) is charged with defining the technical specifications of a global system for the rapid and reliable exchange of data, which would be acceptable to all parties to a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. In December 1988 the GSE began work on the second international seismic data exchange. A first experiment had been conducted in 1984.² The second phase of this second experiment, focussing on the weekly exchange and processing of data between the various seismological stations, began in January 1990.

Since 1985, resolutions in the UN General Assembly sponsored by the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) with the support of the Eastern bloc countries have called for converting the PTBT into a CTBT. On 5 August 1988, this initiative received added impetus when Mexico, Yugoslavia, Peru and Sri Lanka asked the PTBT's Depository States (United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union) to convene an amending conference. Under Article II of the PTBT, the Depository States are required to call a conference if one-third of the Treaty's signatories so request.

By spring 1989 the proposal had received the requisite support, and a few months later the Depository States announced that the conference to amend the treaty would be held from 7 to 18 January 1991 in New York. From 29 May to 8 June 1990, over sixty signatory states attended a meeting in New York to organize the conference. Discussion focussed primarily on the organization and funding of the January conference. The United States and Great Britain opposed conversion of the PTBT into a CTBT.

² "The Group of Scientific Experts meets in Yellowknife." *The Disarmament Bulletin* (Fall 1989), pp. 2-3.