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Prohibition of nuclear tests: proposal for an informal meeting of the Committee on Disarmament with the participation of experts members of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events

The Committee on Disarmament has taken note of the most recent progress report of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts (CD/61). On this occasion it noted that the Ad Hoc Group will be unable to conclude its work before the end of 1981.

Belgium considers, however, that it would be useful if the Committee on Disarmament could, already this year,

Ascertain specifically the nature and state of progress of the work of the Ad Hoc Group, and the problems which remain to be solved within the framework of its terms of reference;

Be informed of the present possibilities of national participation in a system for the international exchange of seismic data;

Form an idea of the additional means which would have to be deployed in the various regions of the world in order that such a system might contribute effectively to the verification of an agreement on the prohibition of nuclear tests.

To this end, the Committee on Disarmament could hold one or two informal meetings with the participation of experts members of the Ad Hoc Group. These meetings could be held at the end of the period 7 - 18 July 1980 during which the Ad Hoc Group will be holding its tenth session at Geneva.

The proposed meeting would not prejudge the results of the work of the Ad Hoc Group. It should revive the Committee's interest in that work and provide an opportunity for inviting the Governments concerned to spare no effort in ensuring that the system envisaged is capable of operating effectively in due time.