

CD/PV.106  
13 February 1981  
ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Friday, 13 February 1981, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. F. de la Gorce (France)

## PRESENT AT THE TABLE

Algeria:

Mr. A. SALAH-BEY

Mr. M. MATI

Argentina:

Mr. F. JIMENEZ DAVILA

Miss N. FREYRE PENABAD

Australia:

Mr. R.A. WALKER

Mr. R. STEELE

Mr. T. FINDLAY

Belgium:

Mr. A. ONKELINX

Mr. J.-M. NOIRFALISSE

Miss G. VAN DEN BERG

Brazil:

Mr. C.A. DE SOUZA E SILVA

Mr. S. DE QUEIROZ DUARTE

Bulgaria:

Mr. P. VOUTOV

Mr. I. SOTIROV

Mr. R. DEYANOV

Mr. K. PRAMOV

Burma:

U SAW HLAING

U THAN HTUN

Canada:

Mr. G. SKINNER

Mr. B. THACKER

Mr. C. CACCIA

China:

Mr. YU Peiwen

Mr. LIANG Yufan

Mrs. WANG Zhiyun

Mr. YANG Mingliang

Cuba:

Mr. L. SOLA VILA

Mrs. V. BOROWDOSKY JACKIEWICH

Czechoslovakia:  
Mr. M. RUZEK  
Mr. P. LUKES  
Mr. A. CIMA  
Mr. L. STAVINOHÁ

Egypt:  
Mr. I.A. HASSAN  
Mr. M.N. FAHY

Ethiopia:  
Mr. F. YOHANNES

France:  
Mr. F. DE LA GORCE  
Mr. J. DE BEAUSSE  
Mr. M. COUTHURES

German Democratic Republic:  
Mr. G. HERDER  
Mr. H. THIELICKE  
Mr. M. KAULFUSS  
Mr. P. BÜNTIG

Germany, Federal Republic of:  
Mr. G. PFEIFFER  
Mr. N. KLINGLER  
Mr. H. MÜLLER  
Mr. W. RÖHR

Hungary:  
Mr. I. KOMIVES  
Mr. C. GYORFFY

India:  
Mr. A.P. VENKATESWARAN  
Mr. S. SARAN

Indonesia:  
Mr. DARUSMAN  
Mr. KARYONO  
Mr. F. QASIM  
Mr. HARYOMATARAM

Iran:  
Mr. M. DABERI  
Mr. D. AMERI

Italy: Mr. V. CORDERO DI MONTEZEMOLO  
Mr. A. CIARRAPICO  
Mr. B. CABRAS  
Mr. E. DI GIOVANNI

Japan: Mr. Y. OKAWA  
Mr. R. ISHII

Kenya: Mr. S. SHITEMI  
Mr. G.N. MUNIU

Mexico: Mr. A. GARCIA ROBLES  
Mr. M.A. CACERES

Mongolia: Mr. D. ERDEMBILEG  
Mr. S.-O. BOLD

Morocco: Mr. M. CHRAIBI

Netherlands: Mr. R.H. FEIN  
Mr. H. WAGENMAKERS

Nigeria: Mr. O. ADENIJI  
Mr. W.O. AKINSANYA  
Mr. T. AGUIYI-IRONSI

Pakistan: Mr. M. AHMAD  
Mr. M. AKRAM  
Mr. T. ALTAF

Peru: Mr. F. VALDIVIESO  
Mr. A. DE SOTO

Poland: Mr. B. SUJKA  
Mr. J. CIALOWICZ  
Mr. S. KONIK  
Mr. T. STROJWAS

Romania: Mr. M. MALITA  
Mr. T. MELESCANU

Sri Lanka:

Mr. H.M.G.S. PALIHAKKARA

Sweden:

Mr. C. LIDGARD

Mr. L. NORBERG

Mr. S. STRÖMBÄCK

Mr. J. LUNDIN

Mr. J. PRAWITZ

Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics:

Mr. B.P. PROKOFIEV

Mr. L.A. NAUMOV

Mr. V.A. SEMIONOV

Mr. V.A. PERFILIEV

Mr. L.S. MOSHKOV

Mr. Y.V. KOSTENKO

Mr. S.N. RIUKHINE

United Kingdom:

Mr. D.M. SUMTERHAYES

Mr. N.H. MARSHALL

Mrs. J.I. LINK

United States of America:

Mr. C.C. FLOWERREE

Ms. K. CRITTEMBERGER

Mr. J.A. MISKEL

Mr. H. WILSON

Venezuela:

Mr. A.R. TAYLHARDAT

Mr. O.A. AGUILAR

Yugoslavia:

Mr. M. VRHUNEC

Mr. B. BRANKOVIC

Zaire:

Mr. O. GNOK

Secretary of the Committee and  
Personal Representative of  
the Secretary-General:

Mr. R. JAIPAL

Deputy Secretary of the Committee:

Mr. V. VERASATEGUI

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): I declare open the 106th plenary meeting of the Committee on Disarmament. We decided yesterday to hold a plenary meeting today so that the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events could submit to the Committee his Group's report which is contained in document CD/150.

Mr. ERICSSON (Chairman, Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts on seismic events): As it has done several times in the recent past, the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events again presents you with a progress report on its work. Last year, in July, I had the opportunity to give a somewhat detailed description of what this Expert Group was about to do. The Group has described how an international seismic data exchange could be designed in order to monitor a complete test map.

Under its most recent mandate, the Group has started to consider, review and assess a number of national investigations into the sending of seismological messages around the globe, involving, in particular, the use of the WMO communication network and a number of other, somewhat technical methods which need to be tested. Such limited tests of the different parts of the system were started in July last year and continue thanks to the very effective co-operation of a number of States through their relevant institutes. There has been actual sending of messages around the globe, involving institutes and States from here in Europe to the other side of the globe, for example Australia and New Zealand, and a number of States in between. Although the results have been most valuable, they are, however, of a preliminary nature only, and the Group therefore intends to pursue this method further. We have enjoyed the co-operation of WMO and understand, informally, that a similar experiment might be possible towards the end of this year.

This is not the only activity in which the Group is engaged; a very considerable effort is also being put into the design of the data centres, which are intended to take care of the data and present them to the participating States. There are also efforts to improve our understanding of how the details of the data should be designed, what kind of data should be taken and transmitted, and how data should be extracted from the ground.

Many of these investigations are such that they cannot be reported to the Committee until early next year, as the communication tests around the globe are bound to the times when the network is available for testing. Therefore, a report on them can not be presented to this Committee until some time in the first half of next year, as is stated in the report which is before you.

The Ad Hoc Group considered that it would require two or three further sessions in which to prepare a report covering all its present activities in the field, and therefore suggested that the next session, subject to the approval of this Committee, be convened here from 3 to 14 August 1981.

Mr. LIDGARD (Sweden): Mr. Chairman, my delegation has received the eleventh progress report of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and to Identify Seismic Events with great satisfaction.

(Mr. Lidgard, Sweden)

Under its present mandate, the Ad Hoc Group has initiated a number of national investigations of the foreseen data exchanged, some of them involving practical tests which, although of limited scope, require international co-operation not only between a number of States but also with the World Meteorological Organization, to which we are much indebted.

I understand that this co-operation and these national investigations, to which my country has been able to contribute continuously, and I hope significantly, will continue and bring us all closer to the day when an international seismic data exchange will contribute to a truly world-wide co-operation in monitoring and thereby politically maintaining a global convention on a test ban.

With this in mind, I formally propose that the Committee take note of the progress report as it is before us in document CD/150 and that we take the necessary decisions on it, if possible at our next plenary meeting.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): Mr. Chairman, I have asked for the floor to thank Dr. Ericsson for the report which he has just tabled before the Committee. My delegation wishes to congratulate him and the members of his Group for the business-like way in which they have addressed their task of considering international co-operative measures to detect and identify seismic events. I particularly wish to congratulate the Group for their efforts, as outlined in the report, and for the results they have achieved. My country looks forward to a continuation of their work.

My delegation derives special satisfaction from the various national and multilateral tests and trial exchanges which are becoming a feature of the Group's activity. Australia participated in two experimental tests last year, one to investigate whether the global telecommunication system operated by the World Meteorological Organization might be used to transmit seismic messages, and the other, conducted by Sweden, for the establishment of a common data base. It is our belief that such tests provide information of value to the proposed international exchange of seismic data.

We would, however, urge broader participation, for example, by countries in the southern hemisphere, in this activity.

Since Mr. McGregor, the Australian member of the Expert Group, is convener of the relevant study group, my delegation specifically wishes to draw attention to the proposed further tests later this year of the exchange of seismic data over the global telecommunication system of WMO, and I take this opportunity to express my belief that this Committee owes a special expression of appreciation to that organization for its co-operation.

Trial exchanges and similar tests with, as I have emphasized, as broad a participation as possible, undoubtedly have an important role to play in establishing a basis for a system to verify a future comprehensive nuclear test-ban agreement.

Mr. OKAWA (Japan): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Japanese delegation I wish to thank Dr. Ericsson for the progress report he has just presented to us. I also, of course, wish to congratulate Dr. Ericsson and his Group of Scientific Experts on the very important work they have been doing over the years.

(Mr. Okawa, Japan)

Unfortunately, I again have to express the regret of my delegation that the experimental exercise on a global scale, which my Government has been calling for, has not yet been put into practice. My delegation does, however, appreciate the fact that a trial exchange of what is known as Level 1 data was conducted in October and November last year through the global telecommunication system of the World Meteorological Organization with the participation of some 14 countries, and that certain results were achieved.

However, it must be pointed out that the 14 countries which took part in the recent tests were countries which are geographically situated either on or near the main trunk circuit of the WMO global telecommunication system. Therefore, it is difficult to say that it was possible to make a full and satisfactory assessment from the point of view of the global exchange of data. It should be stressed that countries which participate in such trial exchanges do not have to undertake complicated procedures, nor do they have to accept too heavy an additional load or burden on their routine work. Indeed, most of the countries members of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts who were not able to take part in the recent trial are in fact already exchanging seismic data as a matter of routine through the WMO global telecommunication system, on a regional basis. One therefore wonders why it would not be possible for such countries to take part in future trial exchanges of a similar nature.

My delegation therefore hopes that, when the next trial exchange is conducted in November and December this year, all countries currently represented in the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts will find it possible to take part; and of course we would like to request or invite those countries which were formerly members of the Ad Hoc Group, and especially countries in the southern hemisphere, to make efforts to take part in future trial exchanges, so that we can make an assessment of WMO's global telecommunication system from a wider and truly global point of view.

Finally, I am pleased to support the proposal just made by Ambassador Lidgard, our distinguished colleague from Sweden, that we formally take note of the report of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts.

Mr. SUMMERHAYES (United Kingdom): Mr. Chairman, I also should like, on behalf of the United Kingdom delegation, to express our appreciation for the report which Dr. Ericsson has just given to the Committee. I am indeed sure that many delegations will join us in thanking him, not only for the account of his chairmanship which he has just given, but also for the work of the Ad Hoc Group itself and the experts who have come to Geneva under his leadership.

My delegation is pleased to see from the report that the Ad Hoc Group and its five subsidiary study groups are continuing to make good progress; we are particularly pleased to see that a number of practical tests of data handling have been carried out and that more are proposed. We believe that this sort of practical experience is particularly valuable in the furtherance of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Group. The United Kingdom has participated in the past year in some of these experimental tests and, like the distinguished delegate of Australia, we would want to see wider participation in further tests which could be undertaken during this coming year.



The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): If no other member of the Committee wishes to speak, I shall assume that we take note of this report and, since delegations will certainly want more time in which to examine it, we can give it our approval at a later meeting.

I suggest that we hold our next plenary meeting on Tuesday, 17 February, at 10.30 a.m. We can then resume our discussions and I think that we shall also have time at that meeting to formalize a consensus on the question of the chairmanships of the ad hoc working groups, a matter we could perhaps consider during a short informal meeting at which we could agree on the terms of the statement to be made at the plenary meeting.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.