

PROGRESS REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT ON THE
FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF SCIENTIFIC
EXPERTS TO CONSIDER INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE MEASURES
TO DETECT AND IDENTIFY SEISMIC EVENTS

1. The Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, initially established in pursuance of the decision taken by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament on 22 July 1976, held its fifteenth formal session from 7 to 18 February 1983 in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. This was the seventh session of the Group convened under its new mandate by the decision of the Committee on Disarmament at its 48th meeting on 7 August 1979.
2. The Ad Hoc Group opened its session by paying tribute to the memory of Dr. Ulf Ericsson of Sweden, who had served as Chairman of the Group from 1976 until his death in November 1982. During these years, he guided the work of the Group with great skill and dedication. The significant results that the Ad Hoc Group has achieved must to a large extent be attributed to the Chairmanship of Dr. Ericsson.
3. The Ad Hoc Group continues to be open to all Member States of the Committee on Disarmament, as well as upon request to non-Member States. Accordingly, scientific experts and representatives of the following Member States of the Committee on Disarmament participated in the session: Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.
4. At their request and on the basis of previous invitation by the Committee on Disarmament, scientific experts from the following non-Member States of the Committee on Disarmament participated in the session: Austria, Denmark, Finland, New Zealand and Norway.
5. A representative of the World Meteorological Organization also attended the session.
6. The Committee on Disarmament, through a letter from its Chairman to the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has requested the WMO to take steps to make necessary arrangements to enable the Ad Hoc Group to continue to utilize the GTS on a regular basis for the transmission of seismic data in order to detect and identify seismic events. (Reference: CD Working Paper No.73 of 26 August 1982). The WMO representative informed the Ad Hoc Group that the Commission for Basic Systems of the WMO at its eighth session in Geneva, 31 January to 11 February 1983 adopted a recommendation which will be submitted for approval to the WMO Congress and Executive Committee in May/June 1983.

*/ Reissued for technical reasons.

7. Under the current mandate of the Ad Hoc Group, information on national investigations related to the work of the Group has been presented by experts from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom and United States of America.

8. During its tenth session, the Ad Hoc Group agreed to establish five study groups in order to achieve an appropriate compilation, summarization and assessment of the experience acquired through national investigations and co-operative studies in areas relevant to its work. These open-ended study groups each deal with a specific issue, and are each headed by a convenor and a co-convenor, as follows:

- (1) Seismological stations and station networks:
Dr. Basham (Canada), Dr. Schneider (German Democratic Republic)
- (2) Data to be regularly exchanged (Level 1 data):
Dr. Harjes (Germany, Federal Republic of), Dr. Waniek (Czechoslovakia)
- (3) Format and procedures for the exchange of Level 1 data through WMO/GTS:
Dr. McGregor (Australia), Dr. Yamamoto (Japan)
- (4) Format and procedures for the exchange of Level 2 data:
Dr. Husebye (Norway), Dr. Christoskov (Bulgaria)
- (5) Procedures to be used at international data centres:
Dr. Israelson (Sweden), Dr. Alewine (United States of America)

9. The Ad Hoc Group discussed a draft of its Third Report compiled by the Scientific Secretary on the basis of draft chapters elaborated by the Convenors of the Study Groups. The contents of the Third Report will be in accordance with the terms of reference given by the Committee on Disarmament for the Ad Hoc Group's present mandate.

10. Some experts noted that the Group received a proposal for a new experiment concerning the exchange and analysis of Level 1 data, using the WMO/GTS, to be held after the WMO has completed arrangements for transmission of seismic data on a regular basis (1 December 1983). Other experts noted that consideration of this issue was premature as long as a relevant final decision by the WMO Congress and Executive Committee was still pending, and that any such proposal would require due consideration.

11. The national investigations so far considered were seen as directed to the further development of the scientific and technical aspects of the envisaged global system and to the further elaboration of instructions for an experimental test of that system.

12. The Group, in particular, considered the foreseen Third Report which is to be about recent developments in seismology and improvements in associated techniques to the extent that they are relevant to the envisaged international co-operative measures to detect and identify seismic events, as described in CCD/558 and CD/43. The Group has observed that certain such developments are rapid and their results can turn out to be useful for the further development of the scientific and technical aspects of the envisaged global system and for the further elaboration of instructions for an experimental test of this system.

13. The Ad Hoc Group also discussed the schedule for its further work. The Ad Hoc Group envisages submitting its Third Report during the 1983 session of the Committee on Disarmament. The Ad Hoc Group suggested that the next session, subject to approval by the Committee on Disarmament, should be convened from 11-22 July 1983 in Geneva.