

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA  
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Working paper on item 1 of the agenda of the Conference on  
Disarmament entitled "Nuclear test ban"

1. The socialist countries consider the earliest completion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests as one of the most urgent and significant measures to prevent nuclear war and halt the nuclear arms race. This position was reaffirmed at the Berlin meeting of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty, held in December 1984 (CD/543).

With that attitude the socialist countries follow the consensus reflected in paragraph 51 of the Final Document of the First SSOD, which emphasizes that the cessation of nuclear-weapon testing would make a significant contribution to the aim of ending the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and the development of new types of such weapons and of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Many resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly have urged the speedy conclusion of such a treaty and the start of negotiations to that end. This goal was only recently reiterated in resolutions 39/52 and 39/60 adopted at the thirty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly. It was with the same aim in mind that six heads of State or Government have called in the Delhi Declaration for the immediate halt to all nuclear-weapons testing.

2. Instead of allowing the Conference to fulfil its negotiating role in the field of a nuclear test ban, some countries suggested that the CD should examine specific issues relating to a Comprehensive Test Ban. However, no other matter in the field of disarmament has been the subject of so much concern and study. A ban on nuclear-weapon tests has been the topic of different fora for more than 25 years. Solutions to many problems regarding such a ban, including verification, have been found in the trilateral talks and at this Conference. Specific verification issues and other aspects of a CTBT were examined by the NTB Working Group in 1982 and 1983 and by the Group of Scientific Experts. To carry on these

activities in the absence of negotiations on a CTB would invariably mean that the Conference is used by some States as an alibi for the continuation of their testing programmes. The Group of Scientific Experts would thus become pointless, if certain States do not refrain from creating obstacles to practical negotiations. Its future should be related to a negotiating process on a nuclear test ban. For this reason, an international seismic monitoring network can be established only in conjunction with such a treaty.

3. Progress towards the complete cessation of nuclear-weapon tests can only be made in the framework of a pertinent negotiating process. The Conference, therefore, should be enabled to live up to its negotiating role, as defined in paragraph 120 of the Final Document of the First SSOD, and establish an ad hoc committee to elaborate a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests. In this context, the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the German Democratic Republic would like to reiterate their view, expressed in document CD/194 of a group of socialist countries, that such a treaty should be aimed at the general and complete cessation of the testing of nuclear weapons by all States in all environments for all time. As far as the mandate for the committee is concerned, the two countries wish to reaffirm the proposal contained in document CD/522/Rev.1 and they are equally prepared to support the draft mandate submitted by the Group of 21 in document CD/520.

Time is more than ripe for negotiations. In 1983, the Soviet Union proposed the basic provisions of a CTB. They offer a sound foundation to conduct negotiations on. The same year, Sweden submitted a draft treaty, which contains valuable ideas.

4. On the basis of those proposals as well as of the discussions on that subject-matter held since years within the Conference on Disarmament, its predecessors and in other fora, the main subjects for the negotiations in an ad hoc committee are pertinent.

They could be structured in the following way:

1. Scope of the treaty

- Comprehensive ban on nuclear-weapons tests in all environments;
- Question of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes.

2. Main obligations of the States Parties

3. Implementation of the treaty

- National measures for implementation;
- National means of verification of compliance;
- International means of verification including co-operation in the field of seismic monitoring, on-site inspection, etc.

4. Entry into force, amendments to the treaty and other questions

The unilateral moratorium on all nuclear tests announced by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is a most widely supported step. Especially the United States of America is requested to join the Soviet moratorium.

An immediate step to end nuclear testing would be the proclamation by all nuclear-weapon States of a moratorium on all nuclear explosions until a CTB-Treaty will be concluded.

The nuclear-weapon countries concerned are requested to review their positions and to come up with a clear commitment to negotiations, taking into account the urgent need of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, as well as the considered view of the overwhelming majority of States.