

Outreach activities

The PTS conducts a variety of activities focusing on enhancing the Treaty understanding of decision-makers and the general public, generating political support, encouraging international cooperation and building national technical capacities through training.

External relations

External relations outreach aims to ensure the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) through signature and ratification by all Annex 2 States and to establish the global verification regime in cooperation with International Monitoring System (IMS) host States. It also works to encourage universal adherence to the Treaty and to enhance participation in the Commission's work.



RELIMINARY SITE SURVEY OF A RADIONUCLIDE STATION IN EDEA (CAMEROON), AUGUST 2002.

The PTS furthers Treaty support through bilateral and multilateral initiatives. It organizes missions in order to stress the political and security value of the Treaty and to provide information on technical implementation aspects. Joint missions between the Legal and External Relations Division and the

International Monitoring System Division have proven an efficient tool to achieve these goals, as they combine technical and political aspects of the activities of the Commission. So far joint missions have taken place to Cameroon (August 2002) and Libya (October 2002).

International cooperation

International cooperation workshops and training programmes also play an important outreach role. Over 350 participants from more than 130 States have so far taken part in international cooperation workshops in venues around the globe. The most recent one, in Kenya in June 2002, brought together 20 States from East and Southern Africa. 25 Caribbean States are expected to participate in an international cooperation workshop that will take place in Jamaica in December 2002.

The Commission also organizes experts discussions, information visits for senior officials from developing States, equipment donation to assist in the establishment of National Data Centres (NDCs) and special training programmes for experts from developing States.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WORKSHOP FOR STATES FROM EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, NAIROBI (KENYA), 18-20 JUNE 2002.

Training

In order to build and operate the verification system efficiently, training is essential. All three verification Divisions offer training courses and programmes. The IMS arranges technical training programmes for IMS station operators and staff from NDCs. In November 2002, a two-week training course has taken place for technical staff of NDCs from 12 Member States on the use of software packages to utilize International Data Centre data and products. The On-Site Inspection Division holds training courses for potential inspectors and workshops to address technical matters related to on-site inspections.



NATIONAL DATA CENTRE TRAINING COURSE FOR TECHNICAL STAFF, VIENNA (AUSTRIA), 18-29 NOVEMBER 2002

The PTS is currently consulting with Member States on ways to enhance its training programmes. At the same time, it is taking steps to establish a centralized registry of training information.

IMS facility agreements and arrangements

In view of the numerous international agreements it concludes, the Preparatory Commission recently acceded to the 1986 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International

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In the spotlight

Sergei A. Ordzhonikidze

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Organizations or between International Organizations. The Commission has a large number of bilateral agreements and arrangements with States hosting international monitoring facilities for the CTBT.

International Monitoring System (IMS) facility agreements and arrangements are foreseen in the Treaty and are based on models adopted by the Commission to regulate the establishment and provisional operation and maintenance of the facilities. To date, the Executive Secretary has signed 22 such agreements and arrangements on behalf of the organization, of which 15 have entered into effect and two are applied provisionally.

Negotiating IMS facility agreements can take time. Early on it was realized that the Commission's programme of work could not wait for them to be finalized. The practice thus evolved for host States to authorize the necessary work by means of interim exchanges of letters, pending conclusion of the formal facility agreement. This has been a successful approach and legal arrangements in the form of IMS facility agreements, or exchanges of letters, now govern the Commission's activities at 309 of the 337 monitoring facilities in 76 of the 90 host States. ■



Mr. Ordzhonikidze, a Russian national and career diplomat, was appointed Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva in March 2002. He also serves as the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament.

Mr. Ordzhonikidze joined the Soviet diplomatic service in 1969 and has held several positions at the Permanent Mission of his country to the United Nations in New York, including Deputy Permanent Representative. In Moscow he served as Deputy Chief of the International Legal Department of the Foreign Ministry and Director of International Organizations of the Foreign Ministry. In 1999, Mr. Ordzhonikidze was appointed Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Q: *The Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban-Treaty (CTBT) was negotiated at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva between 1993 and 1996.*

Where do you as the Secretary-General of this Conference place the CTBT in the overall historic context of the Conference on Disarmament?

A: In the nuclear context, I place the CTBT in the logical, and I hope historical, chain that leads from uncontrolled nuclear proliferation to multilaterally agreed and verified elimination of all nuclear weapons. The conclusion of the CTBT in the Conference on Disarmament marked the completion of an important step in this process that essentially started with the negotiation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in one of the Conference on Disarmament's predecessor bodies.

More broadly, I see the CTBT, together with the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention, as a link in the fence that will ultimately keep out all weapons of mass destruction. The job of the Conference on Disarmament is to continue building this fence.

Q: *In the Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT adopted in New York on 13 November 2001, 109 ratifying and signatory States affirmed "...that the conduct of nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion constitutes a serious threat to global efforts towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation."*

In your view, what effect will the entry into force of the CTBT have on global non-proliferation efforts and the disarmament process?

"The entry into force of the CTBT would provide an immediate boost to both non-proliferation efforts and the whole disarmament process."