

In the spotlight

Ambassador Tom Grönberg

Q: This September, Finland, after Japan (1999) and Mexico (2001), will chair the 2003 Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Article XIV Conference) in Vienna.



ARTICLE XIV CONFERENCE, NEW YORK, 11-13 NOVEMBER 2001

What kind of focus will the upcoming Conference take under the Finnish leadership?

A: The aim of the Conference is to decide what measures may be undertaken to accelerate the ratification process in order to promote the entry into force of the Treaty.

Both of the two previous Conferences have produced strong appeals urging countries who have not yet ratified the Treaty to do so. Also this time we need a strong political appeal. But in addition to that, most countries seem this time to prefer a concrete plan on measures to be taken to promote the ratification process. Adopting such a plan is consequently the main task for this Conference besides launching the political appeal.

Q: With 167 Signatories and 102 ratifications the Comprehensive

Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is now approaching universality. However, the Treaty will not enter into force until it is ratified by the 44 nuclear-capable States listed in its Annex 2. Thirty-one of these States have ratified so far.

What concrete measures are under discussion in the pre-Conference consultations to encourage in particular the outstanding thirteen Annex 2 States to sign and ratify the Treaty?

A: Last September a number of Foreign Ministers signed a statement in which they called upon all States, and in particular those listed in Annex 2, to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. They further stated that they will make representations individually and together in order to make the Treaty a focus at the highest political level. This is a very important statement and it spells out precisely what can and should be done.

Awareness raising will obviously play an important role in all our activities. This is nothing new but it is

“Awareness raising will obviously play an important role in all our activities. This is nothing new but it is clear that we have to stress information activities even more in the future.”

clear that we have to stress information activities even more in the future.

There are of course countries where the non-ratification is linked to technical and administrative constraints. These have to be solved, but here the

problems differ from country to country and have to be addressed individually.

Q: A key activity of the Preparatory Commission is the establishment of a global verification regime to monitor Treaty compliance. This regime needs to be operational at the Treaty's entry into force. Member States have been discussing a range of potential useful civil and scientific applications of the verification data already available to States Signatories.

In your view, what practical implications will the additional benefits of the verification system have for the future of the CTBT?

A: One important element in the information activities is of course to tell what the benefits of the International Monitoring System (IMS) are. While the verification technologies are designed to monitor compliance with the Treaty, many Member States have identified additional ways in which they could potentially be put to use. These include enhanced meteorological and environmental monitoring and

improved seismic assessment capabilities which could contribute to sustainable development and human welfare. After all, the IMS is the largest network of seismic, hydroacoustic, infrasound and radionuclide monitoring facilities in the world – a network



which no country can replicate by itself.

For a number of countries this information is vital when they prepare their ratification of the Treaty. But, in a broader perspective, this information will also further the acceptance of the Treaty.

Q: *Multilateral mechanisms and treaties play a central role in arms control and disarmament. The CTBT is one of the pillars of a global regime to*

“The Treaty is today even more important than it was seven years ago when it was agreed upon. The developments during the last years bear witness of this. Non-proliferation has become one of the central multilateral issues.”

States that have not joined the Treaty often lack confidence in other States’ intentions. Building such a confidence is then, of course, of utmost importance. This Conference will provide an opportunity in this respect. I think we have to bear in mind that the only way to secure global peace and to build confidence is to proceed with sometimes relatively small but well-prepared and steady steps.

Q: *The Treaty, although not yet in force, plays an important role in international peace and security as it has created an international climate within which a moratorium on nuclear test explosions is now regarded by many as a norm.*

What developments in the future role of the Treaty do you see at this stage?

A: The Treaty is today even more important than it was seven years ago when it was agreed upon. The developments during the last years bear witness of this. Non-proliferation has become one of the central multilateral issues. I can only hope that the new awareness of the problems we might be facing rallies a new support for the Treaty. ■

control weapons of mass destruction. However, global non-proliferation can only be successful if all members of the community of nations are involved.

How is the upcoming Conference positioned to build consensus in the field of multilateral non-proliferation among the community of nations?

A: The Conference is no doubt an important step towards a consensus on multilateral non-proliferation. This is perhaps best illustrated by the fact that the first step out of the thirteen in the list adopted at the 2000 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) deals with the CTBT.

Biographical note



Ambassador Tom Grönberg, Permanent Representative of Finland to the international organizations in Vienna, is chairing the preparatory process of the Conference on

Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT, to be held in Vienna from 3 to 5 September 2003.

Mr. Grönberg joined the diplomatic service in 1975 as Deputy Director-General for the Finnish International Development Agency. Prior to this, he held several positions including Secretary to the Prime Minister. Between 1983 and 1987, he served as Ambassador to Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda, and also as Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements.

Before being appointed Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe in 1994, he served as Director-General for the Legal Department. He has served as Ambassador of Finland to Austria and Slovenia since 1998. ■