

**Intervention by Dr. The Hon. Timothy Harris, Minister for Foreign Affairs of
Saint Kitts and Nevis at the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
Conference in Vienna, 3-5th Sept. 2003**

I am quite pleased by this opportunity to participate in this high level dialogue among signatories and non signatories to the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Our contemporary existence is under threat and the peace is too fragile. The increasing restlessness among and in member states of UN, the escalation in acts of terrorism, acts of hate and intolerance all speak to the primacy of security issues in the global community.

Those of us, who wish to pursue peace are all clear in our minds that peace can be sustained without resort to weapons of mass destruction. We need to do all in our power to prevent catastrophic destruction in every part of the global community.

Saint Kitts and Nevis welcomes multilateral approaches to achieve

- (1) nuclear disarmament in arsenals of nuclear weapons
- (2) prevention of nuclear proliferation

and we commend the fine work of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

Mr. Chairman, the instability which now plagues the Korean Peninsula, is instructive in many respects. We cannot ignore the grotesque picture of a calamity and a catastrophe waiting to happen. Moreover we see clearly how nuclear power can be used to hold peace and security to ransom.

It is in all our interest that there be a cessation of all nuclear weapon test explosions and all other nuclear cessations. Saint Kitts and Nevis therefore pledges to take all requisite action needed to ensure its soonest ratification of the Treaty and its early entry into force.

Small islands states within the CARICOM region have no intention to acquire nuclear military capability. Our concerns are more mundane and more reflective of our agenda to advance the socio economic development of our countries. We see value and worth in CTBT Organization's work in a range of civil and scientific applications.

Being small islands states which are annually buffeted and damaged by hurricanes, and being exposed to volcanic eruptions such as those which have occurred in the island of Montserrat in last 5 years we see benefits in applying the expertise, experience and data gathered through and from the verification technologies of the International Monitoring System (IMS) and International Data Centre (IDC) to assist vulnerable states of CARICOM in

- (1) disaster management and response
- (2) research into marine life such as key fisheries and whale populations and migration patterns
- (3) tracking the position and intensity of distant storms
- (4) improving shipping safety through the monitoring of underwater volcanic explosions
- (5) detection of volcanic explosions to assist in aviation safety.
- (6) minimizing our vulnerabilities to natural threats such as volcanic eruptions, and in this regard defining safe zones etc. and assisting in designing the most environmentally sustainable built environment,
- (7) assist in identifying reserves of natural gas.

We would wish to see the benefits of nuclear research and knowledge be put to civil purposes. The data, experience, expertise gathered over the years with respect to hydroacoustic monitoring, infrasound monitoring, seismological monitoring, radionuclide monitoring must be put to the beneficial use of civil society.

In conclusion Mr Chairman,

There is much to be gained by ratification of this Treaty. The stability, peace and prosperity of the global community are linked to ratification by Member States. In this regard Saint Kitts and Nevis invites the 12 remaining countries under Annex 2 of the Treaty to review their position and to move expeditiously to ratify the Treaty.

Saint Kitts and Nevis will do no less than to move to ratify this Treaty and to encourage other Member States of CARICOM (Caricom Community) to do so also.

I thank you.