



PERMANENT MISSION OF SWEDEN  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
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**Statement by  
State Secretary Hans Dahlgren, Sweden,  
at the  
CTBT Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force  
of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty  
September 3, 2003**

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## **Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, in Vienna, Austria**

**Statement by Mr. Hans Dahlgren, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Sweden**

**3 September 2003**

Mr President,

Let me first congratulate you on your election as chairman of this conference.

Sweden fully associates itself with the statement made by Italy on behalf of the European Union.

Mr President,

Lots of dedicated men and women spent year after year in negotiating the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. They did so because they understood the importance of ending nuclear testing, as a way to achieve a world free from nuclear weapons.

The Treaty is now an important part of the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regime. But its continued failure to enter into force carries a great risk of undermining that very same regime.

The need for multilateral disarmament has been clearly identified, all through these years. The late Prime Minister of Sweden, Olof Palme, often spoke about the unique threat to all of mankind. He argued, during the mid-80's, that not only were more people than ever before threatened by the existing weapons, not only were more resources taken away from urgent civilian demands than ever before. What was at stake was quite simply the future of our civilization.

It is true that there are fewer nuclear weapons around today than fifteen or twenty years ago. But they are numerous enough. In fact, there have never been so many fingers on the nuclear triggers as right now. And there are all too many countries with the ambition to have access to nuclear arms.

The direct responsibility to disarm obviously rests with the countries that possess nuclear weapons. But we are all affected by their decisions.

Therefore, we, the non-nuclear, must all have a say. We must have the right to demand that nuclear weapons are never used, that nuclear testing is finally forbidden, and that the nuclear-weapon states fulfil their obligation to get rid of these arms.

There are plenty of reasons to worry:

We hear that North Korea withdraws from the Non-Proliferation Treaty, aiming at possessing its own nuclear weapons.

We follow the assumed nuclear ambitions of Iran.

We see the unsafeguarded possession of nuclear weapons by India and Pakistan.

And we note, in several countries, a tendency to accord a growing importance to nuclear weapons, in military doctrines and postures.

There is clearly a need to do more to address the threats posed by nuclear weapons, through disarmament and non-proliferation. In recognition of that need, the European Union has engaged itself more actively in this field, by adopting a set of basic principles and an action plan against weapons of mass destruction. For the same reason, my own government has initiated an independent international commission on disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to be chaired by Dr Hans Blix. We hope that his group will give new energy to the international work against weapons of mass destruction, new impulses to the international debate and new recommendations on what we can do together.

But some things are already obvious that we just have to do:

We have to make it crystal clear to the Democratic Republic of Korea that the price for acquiring nuclear weapons will be very high.

We have to give Iran a crisp and straightforward message: to alleviate our concerns as to their nuclear program; to co-operate fully with the IAEA; to show full transparency and to accede to and implement the Additional Protocol.

We have to call on India and Pakistan to carry out the steps outlined in Security Council resolution 1172, adopted after their respective nuclear tests in 1998.

We have to call on India, Pakistan and Israel to adhere to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon states.

And we have to express our deep concern about the on-going discussions in the United States, on creating a new generation of nuclear weapons.

Additional nuclear arms will not provide any additional security in the twenty-first century. Nuclear weapons should be demolished and destroyed, wherever they are. And the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regime should be strengthened, not put at risk. That's why it is so vitally important that the Test Ban Treaty enters into force, and that it does so now.

Mr President,

We have met here in Vienna to reaffirm our belief that nuclear tests must be banned. We have met here to urge those countries that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the treaty, so that it will enter into force and make the world a safer place to live in. I hope that this Conference will give a strong message to the world - that nuclear testing should be a thing of the past.