

December 9, 1987

Statement of the Secretary of State of the U.S. 318862
and
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR

In accordance with the joint statement on the problems relating to nuclear testing, adopted in Washington on September 17, 1987, the U.S. and the USSR are proceeding to design a joint verification experiment. This experiment would be conducted as soon as possible at the test sites of each other (respectively in Semipalatinsk and Nevada) for the purpose of the elaboration of improved verification measures for the 1974 Threshold Test Ban Treaty and the 1976 Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty. These verification measures will, to the extent appropriate, be used in further nuclear test limitation agreements which may subsequently be reached. R

For the purpose of the joint verification experiment, each side will provide the other side with an opportunity to measure the yield of one or two explosions at each side's test site with yields not less than 100 kilotons and approaching 150 kilotons.

For the purpose of the joint verification experiment, each side will have the opportunity, on the basis of complete reciprocity, to measure the yields of the explosions for verification purposes, using: teleseismic methods; and, at the other side's test site, hydrodynamic yield measurement methods in a satellite hole. As a yield standard, the experiment will include yield measurement by means of a hydrodynamic method in the emplacement hole.

The joint verification experiment will not be designed to produce statistically significant results, but will be conducted in such a way as to address all other concerns identified by either side regarding methods proposed by the other side for verification of the 1974 Threshold Test Ban Treaty and the 1976 Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty. The sides have also agreed that the experiment will give sufficient information to resolve these concerns by providing an example of the effectiveness of the verification methods used in the joint verification experiment and by demonstrating their practicability and non-intrusiveness. The experiment will thus provide the basis for agreeing on those verification measures which could be used by either side to verify compliance by the other side with the provisions of the 1974 and 1976 Treaties. The understanding has been reached that in the future each side will be entitled to apply any or all of these agreed verification measures.

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In order to develop and reach agreement on specific technical and organizational parameters of the joint verification experiment the sides have agreed to establish ad hoc working groups at their negotiations.

In order to help prepare themselves to design and conduct the joint verification experiment, the sides have agreed to exchange visits of delegations to the two sides' nuclear test sites. These visits, to the USSR Semipalatinsk Test Site and the U.S. Nevada Test Site, will take place in January 1988 as the preliminary work of the next negotiating round in Geneva.