Panel debates ban on nuclear testing

(Continued from page 1) - mongering" or ignoring the is- sues, but is concerned about arms control, he said.

The reliability of the black boxes that seemingly monitor nuclear explosions is question- able, according to Snyder. The boxes might, if the bomb is small enough, confuse a nuclear deto- nation for a nuclear explosion, he said. Thus, he asserted, the Sovi- ets would be tempted to cheat on a test ban treaty.

The Reagan administration has "agreed in principle" to the technical wave of ratifying the CTB, claimed Law- rence Welser, former member of the US Arms Control and Disar- mament Agency. "Is the execu- tive branch above the law?" he asked.

The CTB will not solve all American arms problems, according to Michael Nacht, asso- ciate professor of Public Policy at Tufts University's School of Government. There is no guarantee nations would not "cheat" on the treaty, he noted. The US should "proceed with caution" in ratifying the CTB, he advised.

"Most Americans use their democracy ... Voting should be compulsory," said Dr. Helen Cal- dio, professor of Government at Tufts University. Since "nothing moves a politician more than his own political car- eer," people have tremendous power to decide on the issue by passing the test ban treaty, she noted.

Cal Dio is a native of Aus- tralia, which was especially high in her judgement of her country's nu- clear testing in the Pacific during the 1950s. Babies and young children were exposed to milk contaminated by the testing. After nine months of lecturing, she said 75 percent of the Aus- tralia population opposed France's testing. She attributed her success to her "use of democracy.

The same procedure, Cal Dio contended, could be used to make Americans aware of the dangers of nuclear testing. The US and the USSR would then be forced not only to ratify the CTB but to also to disarm. Cal Dio said. Disarmament "should set an example for all other coun- tries and move toward a saner world."

Congress first debated nuclear testing in 1946. Lall noted. Both the US and the Soviet Union, however, continued nuclear test- ing and the US exploded the first hydrogen superbomb in 1954. Opponents were unsuccessful at stopping the tests, even though American and Russian scientists held a conference in Geneva dur- ing 1955 to discuss the prohibi- tion of such testing.

The Limited Test Ban Treaty, ratified by both nations in 1963 during the Kennedy administra- tion, prohibited all open air nu- clear tests.

The commitment toward elimi- nation of all nuclear tests has varied with the different American ad- ministrations, Lall noted. Former President Richard M. Nixon signed the Threshold Test Ban Treaty which proscribed explosions to 150 kilotons, but Reagan has made "no effort at all" to curtail weapons testing in general.

The House of Representatives is considering demanding the US and the USSR meet and negotiate an immediate, mutual cessation of the testing, building and deployment of nu- clear arms, said Marky, co-spon- sor of the resolution.

There is enough support in the House to pass the resolution after Easter break, Marky said, al- though opponents of the freeze were able to postpone the final vote March 16.

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