

regularly with the undertaking to report annually on research centres and laboratories active in the field.

Canada is currently preparing for the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Review Conference, scheduled for September 1991, and will work at that Conference to improve the Convention's effectiveness.

Nuclear Weapons

Canada remains one of the strongest supporters of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Canada worked intensively at the Treaty's Fourth Review Conference, held in August-September 1990, to ensure progress in several areas related to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, nuclear trade and safeguards. Canada regularly makes its views on the importance of joining the NPT known to non-parties and will continue to encourage the maintenance and strengthening of the non-proliferation regime.

Missile Technology

Canada participates with 13 other countries in a coordinated policy to control exports that could contribute to the proliferation of missile systems capable of delivering nuclear weapons. This endeavour is called the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). Canada hosted a meeting of MTCR partners in July 1990 to review the effectiveness of the regime and prepare the way for new adherents.

Conventional Weapons

Canada enforces strict and effective controls on the export of conventional military goods and technology. Multilaterally, Canada is represented on the UN Group of Experts (established under resolution 43/751) that is studying ways and means of promoting transparency in international arms transfers. Because Canada believes that transparency can contribute to the building of confidence, it will be releasing for 1990 and future years an annual report on its exports of military goods. Canada hopes that the current situation in the Persian Gulf will encourage both supplier and recipient nations to re-examine their arms export and import policies, with a view to increased restraint. ■

Canada-Netherlands Trial CW Inspection: Exercise ACID BREW

During the summer of 1990, EAITC and National Defence officials initiated discussions with the Netherlands about conducting trial chemical weapons (CW) and CFE inspections with a view to developing techniques and methods. The parties reached an agreement whereby Canada would host a trial CW inspection at the Canadian Forces Base in Lahr, Germany from November 25 to 28, 1990. Commander Canadian Forces Europe was formally tasked to host the inspection — nicknamed ACID BREW — in mid-October 1990. The protocol for exercise ACID BREW was based on the "rolling text" of the CW convention currently under negotiation at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and was designed to: test the challenge inspection procedures; determine whether sensitive information might be divulged during the course of an inspection; and gain experience in the planning, conduct and hosting of challenge inspections.

In addition to CFB Lahr units and personnel, participants included two arbiters (one Canadian and one Dutch), 15 inspectors/inspection assistants (four Canadian and 11 Dutch), one Dutch observer and two German guest observers. The inspection team arrived at Lahr by Dutch aircraft on November 25. Although link-up with the escort team and inspection of equipment was done on arrival, the inspection itself did not begin until the morning of November 26. The inspection ended at 8:30 a.m. on November 28, and was followed by a debriefing, "hot wash-up" and luncheon.

The initial impressions of both parties were that the trial inspection was very successful. The inspection team and observers fulfilled their respective functions and roles professionally and thoroughly. Their detailed knowledge of the inspection protocol, and the manner in which they discharged their duties, made the task of the escort officers challenging and satisfying. The two arbiters provided guidance when required and ensured that all participants remained within their respective roles, thus contributing in large measure to the success of the inspection.

Planning is currently underway for the CFE trial inspection in the Netherlands. Based on the spirit of cooperation developed during exercise ACID BREW, the CFE trial should prove equally beneficial.



Canadian and Dutch inspectors audit unit data.