

FRANCE

NATIONAL TRIAL INSPECTION

INTRODUCTION

At the summer session in 1988, the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons proposed that national trial inspections should be carried out by interested countries for the purpose of determining, inter alia, whether the verification provisions contained in the "rolling text" realistically made it possible to ascertain that declared chemical industry facilities were not being used for prohibited purposes.

This document contains a report on the national trial inspection organized in March 1989. The results will for the most part be set out in accordance with the Swedish paper (CD/CW/WP.213).

This exercise brought out in particular the importance of the initial visit, the value of checking facility documents prepared over a long period, the difficulties involved in analysis of samples and the need to pay constant attention to respect for confidentiality. In addition, it enabled representatives of various ministries and public bodies, as well as chemical manufacturers as grouped together in the Union des Industries Chimiques, to become acquainted with the real nature, the constraints and the implications of the future convention.

I. GENERAL APPROACH

1. Objective

A national trial inspection was organized at a multi-purpose chemical facility to test a routine inspection procedure designed to check that a prior declaration concerning a chemical to be placed in schedule [2] was borne out by the existence of a shop for the manufacture of the product, and that there was consequently no possibility of the output being diverted.