

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS in the 1989 edition of *The Guide*). The Government ordered that a public enquiry be held to clarify the matter. It promised to conduct follow-up studies of those individuals identified as having participated in such tests, and gave assurances that additional efforts were being undertaken to identify and locate others who may have been involved.²¹

In December 1988, a retired Canadian army veteran indicated that in 1947 the Canadian Army had dumped shells containing mustard gas in the Pacific Ocean.²² While Defence Minister Beatty and other DND officials had responded to such claims initially by stating that "no record of such an operation existed", additional evidence led to admissions by Colonel Conrad Mialkowski, Assistant Deputy General for Research and Development at National Defence Headquarters, that such dumping did in fact take place about 160 km off the coast of British Columbia.²³ (see **CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS** in the 1989 edition of *The Guide*).

CURRENT CANADIAN POSITION

From 18 to 22 September 1989, Canada participated in a conference in Canberra, Australia, on the proposed implementation of a convention on chemical weapons. The conference was attended by government officials from over sixty-five countries and chemical industry representatives from over thirty countries. Its purpose was to strengthen the government-industry bond and to draw attention to national and industrial responsibilities pending the conclusion and implementation of a Chemical Weapons Convention. Canada took the opportunity to present a study prepared under the auspices of the Verification Research Unit of the Department of External Affairs, entitled "Role and Function of a National Authority in the Implementation of a Chemical Weapons Convention."²⁴

In an address to the First Committee of the United Nations on 20 October 1989, Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament, Ms. Peggy Mason, referred to the progress achieved in chemical weapons negotiations:

Progress in the chemical weapons negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament has not been as dramatic as some may have hoped, given the expectations generated at the Paris Conference earlier this year. These expectations must be tempered, however, by recognition that questions of considerable complexity are now before the Ad Hoc Committee. The Working Groups established

²¹ *Commons Debates*, 21 September 1988, pp. 19478-19479; 22 September 1988, p. 19530; and 23 September 1988, pp. 19568 and 19572.

²² "Army Dumped Chemical Arms: Report." *Ottawa Citizen*, 9 December 1988, p. C18.

²³ "Forces Admit Mustard Gas off B.C.'s Coast." *Vancouver Sun*, 14 December 1988.

²⁴ "Government and Industry Discuss CW Ban in Canberra." *The Disarmament Bulletin*, (Fall 1989), p. 22.