

totally prohibited. Concerning a third group, e.g. alkylphosphonochloridates and - fluoridates, which are important binary precursors with relatively limited civilian use, a licence system with surveillance should be established, and the production and use outside this system prohibited.

The idea of creating a consultative committee with a permanent secretariat for international verification measures has also gained common ground. This committee could also take care of the list of the prohibited compounds in order to keep it updated, as well as to control that the licence system has been applied. In addition, every party to the convention should have the right to make proposals concerning the list.

By way of conclusion we believe, taking into account that the convention should be comprehensive and the banning of chemical agents primarily based on purpose criterion, that verification would be best served if, in addition to the toxicity criterion, a list of known or strongly suspected chemical agents with standardized verification data could be made available. Complete verification is not possible. Small amounts of dangerous agents can be prepared in relatively simple laboratories, and even new extremely toxic compounds developed, often unintentionally, in connection with other investigations. These products may be dangerous e.g. in the hands of terrorists. Their large scale production and development for a militarily important weapons system can be disclosed by various detection means. Thus even if the list of prohibited agents cannot be complete in regard to potential or secret toxic agents, the amounts and significance of such compounds would be limited. The standardized verification methods could constitute a good analytical system for new not previously mentioned compounds.

Finally, we understand very well that the above-mentioned suggestions do not solve the difficult problem of verification. We believe, however, that if the realistic possibilities and limits of verification were diagnosed in the context of agreeing upon the scope of the ban, the reliability of the convention is increased.