

use of chemical agents, namely: penetration in snow, coverage of snowfall, temperature, wind speed, droplet size and interference from battlefield background.

Experiments carried out last year showed that temperature was a very important factor as regards the possibility of verification under winter conditions. Low temperatures increased greatly the possibility of obtaining positive verification of the three unstable agents, whereas temperatures close to zero led to rapid deterioration of the samples. In the latter case verification by means of decomposition products or production by-products proved most important and greatly facilitated the verification efforts. It should also be mentioned that as regards mustard gas, verification was made easier the larger the droplet size.

The experiments carried out so far prove that use of selective and sensitive analytical methods make it possible to verify use of a number of agents — which are specified in the research report and in the Working Paper — well beyond four weeks.

During the winter 1983/84 a new line of investigation was also initiated in order to gain practical experience in the problems of sample collection, sample preparation and transportation of samples. The first experiment took place 100 km from the main laboratory, whereas a second test took place 1,400 km from the laboratory. The results from these experiments seem to be interesting and highly relevant to the role which the Consultative Committee and its subsidiary bodies may be called upon to perform within a future convention.

The results show that with regard to effects there are large differences between the different methods of preparing the samples for transportation. Without any special effort to preserve the samples the unstable agent will deteriorate within 24 hours. As an example I can mention that from samples of mustard gas only 2-9 per cent was left after 24 hours of transport without any precaution. It is clear that this finding has a very significant bearing on the future procedures to be selected for sampling and transport of any agent. A good method was shown to be extraction of the snow samples with an organic solvent. Furthermore, I should like to emphasize that extraction of samples was found possible even with simple equipment and under improvised field conditions. This is a consideration that must be given due emphasis in this respect.

I hope that the conclusions of the Norwegian research programme so far, as described in documents CD/508 and CD/509, can be of use for the work of the Conference on Disarmament, including its Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. As I have already stated, our main focus has been to assist the Conference as regards the elaboration of the role of the Consultative Committee and its subsidiary bodies within the framework of a chemical weapons convention.

The third Norwegian document which I have the honour to introduce today is Working Paper CD/507, which deals with seismic verification of a comprehensive nuclear test ban. This document is a follow-up of previous Norwegian contributions to the Ad Hoc Working Group on a Nuclear Test Ban in 1982 and 1983 and to the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts since its establishment in 1976.

It is regrettable that an ad hoc committee on a nuclear test ban has not yet been established. Further progress toward a comprehensive test ban is now highly desirable, also in view of the third review conference for the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1985.

Within the field of seismic verification of a nuclear test ban, the third report of March this year of the Group of Scientific Experts represents a very important step forward. In addition, the planned exchange and analysis of so-called Level I data by making use of the World Meteorological Organization's network can further promote the work in this field.

In this connection the Norwegian delegation has noted with interest the statement made by the distinguished representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Ambassador Victor Issraelyan, on 18 April, when he said: "The Soviet Union would be