

system of inspection in the Convention on Chemical Weapons and the similar systems in the CFE Conventions, in which the object is to verify the existence of various equipment.

In view of all this, it was possible to prove in practice through the trial what was already a virtual certainty before the trial was carried out: challenge inspection must be a last resort, being markedly political in nature, and the more closely the interests of the inspected State and the inspection team coincide - a coincidence based on the desire on the one hand to dispel the doubts affecting the security of the challenging State, and the existence on the other hand of an overwhelming desire to prove the "innocence" of the inspected State and thereby its proper fulfilment of the provisions of the Convention - the more reliable will be its result.

Subject to these conditions, the institution of challenge inspection will be totally effective and will fill the role expected of it within the framework of the overall system of verification and the Convention on Chemical Weapons.

4.10 Observer

As was foreseeable, the figure of the observer proved controversial and it was therefore agreed to restrict his access to and participation in the inspection to the strict limits compatible with his existence.

While the observer fulfils the important purpose of providing the challenging State with guarantees as to the efficiency with which the inspection team performs its duty, his constant presence in inspection activities is impossible because it transforms security problems into matters more important than the inspection itself and provokes on the part of the challenged State attitudes of excessive rejection and distrust that can vastly complicate an exercise of this nature.

Notwithstanding, the observer was informed, solely by the leader of the inspection team and/or the leader of the escort team, about all the aspects of the inspection, beginning from the time when the plan was drawn up until the preparation of the final report, and including all the intermediate stages.

The observer was prevented from having access to any type of documentation and to any of the facilities inspected and remained, with an escort, in a facility building until the operation was completed, with periodic reports being made to him on its progress.

4.11 Time-limits

In conclusion, emphasis must be placed on the importance according to Spain's experience as described in this report of time-limits during the initial stages of the conduct of a challenge inspection. This point may indeed be of such importance as to compromise the very reliability of the