

## PREFACE

This paper was first published in June 1989 for distribution to Canadian government agencies in order to promote discussion on issues related to the proposed Chemical Weapons Convention. The issue of allegations of use is a complex one, especially where the agents are unknown and it is possible that the event, although unusual, may be of natural occurrence. The paper develops a methodology for the examination of such events including the possibility that a novel chemical warfare agent had been employed. It focuses upon the need for epidemiological studies and the type of national infrastructure that might be appropriate to oversee such investigations for a National Authority in Canada.

The paper was written by a consultant from the University of Saskatchewan in conjunction with the Verification Research Unit of External Affairs and International Trade Canada. The paper and its recommendations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Canadian government.

It is believed that the material herein might be useful to other States involved in the negotiations on a Chemical Weapons Convention and is offered to promote discussion on the difficult problem of novel chemical weapons.