

with the routine US practice of destroying obsolete chemical weapons stocks.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, they stressed that it was unclear whether the Soviet initiative was militarily significant, given the huge chemical weapons arsenal they believe the Soviets to possess.<sup>2</sup>

On 15 February 1989, in response to the involvement of a West German company in construction of the alleged Libyan chemical weapons facility at Rabta, the Federal German Cabinet announced approval of revised export controls, more fully to guard against the sale of materials that could be used in the production of chemical weapons capabilities in the future. West German officials also noted that their Government would seek an early meeting of the Australia Group (i.e., nineteen chemical-manufacturing nations--including Canada--who have attempted to strengthen controls on chemical exports) to urge all members to adopt similar measures, and would press for the adoption of similar measures by the European Community.

Recent progress at the CD has been evident in the near doubling of non-member participants involved in the chemical weapons negotiations, and in the submission of reports by more than twenty-eight states, to date, concerning inspections of their respective chemical industries (i.e., National Test Inspections). Nevertheless, several issues require further attention. These include: a definition of chemical weapons; verification difficulties, given the ease with which such weapons can be manufactured; the cost, size and scope of an international monitoring agency; the procedural details for instituting challenge inspection; and the problem of ensuring the broadest possible participation in a chemical weapons convention.

Canada has signed and ratified both the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). Since the conclusion of the BWC, Canada has shown great interest in the elaboration of verification measures to strengthen its enforcement. Canada was an active participant at the *ad hoc* meeting of scientific and technical experts held in Geneva in March and April 1987 in accordance with the provisions of the Final Declaration of the second review conference of the BWC. There, Canada contributed to a better understanding of the utility of adopting criteria relating to disease outbreaks, as well as containment standards for research facilities.<sup>3</sup>

Successive Canadian governments have also sought to help define and promote a chemical weapons convention, as well as to ensure its effective verification. Indeed, the conclusion of such a ban constitutes one of the six major goals in arms control and disarmament of the present Canadian Government. Prominent among Canada's initiatives have been its submission to the CD of various working papers relating to a chemical weapons ban.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Michael R. Gordon, "Soviets to Start Trimming Arsenal of Chemical Arms." *New York Times*, 9 January 1989, p. A8.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. A1.

<sup>3</sup> "Biological Weapons: Successful Conference Outcome." *The Disarmament Bulletin*, Summer-Fall 1987, p. 10.

<sup>4</sup> See, for instance: Canada and Norway, *Proposal for An Annex to Article IX Concerning Verification of Alleged Use of Chemical Weapons*, CD/766 (2 July 1987); and Canada, *Factors Involved in Determining Verification Inspectorate Personnel and*