

C115(A83)

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Proposal Abstract C115(A83)

1. **Arms Control Problem:**
Chemical weapons - use
2. **Verification Type:**
 - (a) On-site inspection - selective
- sampling
 - (b) Complaints procedure - referral to Secretary General
- referral to General Assembly
3. **Source:**
Sutherland, R.G. Verification of Chemical Weapon Use: Prospect.
Paper presented at the Arms Control Verification Symposium, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, 6-8 June 1983.

4. **Summary:**

This article deals with the task of verification where a breach is alleged to have occurred. It begins with a brief history of chemical weapons, a description of the various chemical agents, and the international treaties governing their use. Some of the problems encountered in the United Nations' investigation of alleged incidents involving chemical weapons use are then considered, among them the difficulty of gaining access to the site of the incident, language and cultural differences, and the problem of obtaining and analyzing samples. The UN resolution which provides for such investigation is also reviewed, and the significant sections are highlighted. It is established that there is a need for a forum to review complaints, a separate mechanism to collect evidence, an available group of experts to conduct investigations, and yet another group to assess the evidence and judge it accordingly.

A procedure is proposed which would accommodate this division of tasks. It is suggested that the Secretary General of the UN make the initial decision of whether or not to proceed with an investigation. A separate peacekeeping force would then provide experts to conduct various kinds of investigation. The evidence they produce would be sent back to the Secretary General, who would in turn have this information evaluated by yet another body of experts. The final report would then return to the General Assembly of the UN, where a judgment of the evidence would be made.

This procedure is advantageous in that it provides for the collection of evidence by a neutral body, and also prescreens the data so that it may be evaluated by the appropriate group of experts.