C111(G82)

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Proposal Abstract C111(G82)

- 1. Arms Control Problem: Chemical weapons - use
- 3. Source:

Norway. "Working paper on verification of a chemical weapons convention - sampling and analysis of chemical warfare agents under winter conditions". CD/311, 11 August 1982.

- See also: Norway. "Working paper: Verification of a chemical weapons convention - sampling and analysis of chemical warfare agents under winter conditions". CD/396, 19 July 1983.
 - Norway. "Working Paper: Verification of a chemical weapons convention: Procedures for verification of alleged use of chemical weapons". CD/703, 16 June 1986.
 Abstract C118(G85).
- 4. Summary:

This paper summarizes the results of a research report on technical aspects of sampling and analysis. The main goal of the research programme was to focus on some of the verification problems the Consultative Committee will have to solve. One such problem is dealing with the climatic conditions and terrain of the contaminated area. The research programme concentrated on sampling and identification of chemical warfare agents in snow- or ice-covered ground at subzero temperature.

The study found that the amount of chemical agent from an attack will rapidly decrease with time depending on weather conditions. Wind The study also found that chemical speed is the dominant factor. than in water. The firm agents decompose faster in snow identification of the identity of an agent is thus dependent on the time factor and weather conditions, but analysis of snow samples can permit identification as much as two weeks after a chemical attack and even, in some cases, more than four weeks after an attack. Snow samples should be collected from the top 10cm layer below the original snow surface because none of the chemical agents tested penetrated deep into the snow, even after a long time.

In working paper CD/396, Norway summarizes the results of a second phase of its research. Tests with the riot control agent CS showed that, under winter conditions, the stability of different chemical agents varies. This influences the possibility of verifying the use of chemical agents. Rapid decomposition of agents in the