

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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## Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons

### REPORT OF EXPERTS' MEETING ON THE DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

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Presented by the Friend of the Chair  
on Technical Matters (P. CANONNE)

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During the 1991 Session, the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons decided to organise a meeting devoted to technical aspects of the destruction of chemical weapons (cf. CW/FCTM/PC/7/Rev.2 - 7 August 1991) and appointed Dr Jacobus OOMS, of The Netherlands, as the Chairman of this meeting. The meeting was held on 8 - 10 October 1991.

Background papers on different aspects of destruction were submitted and discussed. A list of the participants, a list of these papers and the agenda are included as an annex to this report.

A preliminary report was made orally by the Chairman to the Ad Hoc Committee on 11 October 1991.

The results of the discussions are presented in this report, as viewed by the three rapporteurs (R. TRAPP, D. FROMENT, B. ODERNHEIMER) and by the Friend of the Chair.

#### I - GENERAL BACKGROUND - EXPERIENCES FROM PAST DESTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

An overview was presented on destruction technologies for chemical weapons (in bulk storage as well as in ammunition storage), and for former CW production facilities (1). Information was also provided on several specific CW destruction operations conducted in the past, and in particular on the destruction of mustard gas weapons in Britain, on the destruction of several types of chemical weapons at Rocky Mountain Arsenal in the USA (2) and on the destruction of BZ at Pine Bluff Arsenal, USA (3). During the discussions, further information was provided on destruction experiences from countries.