

all located on Soviet territory. Superpower bilateral talks on chemical weapons are now moving toward negotiation of arrangements on data exchange.

In the meantime, however, after a hiatus of 18 years, the United States has renewed its production of chemical weapons to counter the Soviet Union's chemical arsenal. On 16 December 1987 it began final assembly of its first binary artillery shell. Plans for the production of a chemical weapon deterrent also continue in France.

Notwithstanding the progress made on a chemical weapons convention in the CD, 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. Since the conclusion of the BWC, Canada has shown great interest in the elaboration of verification measures to strengthen its enforcement. Moreover, successive Canadian governments have sought to help define and promote a chemical weapons convention, as well as to ensure its effective verification. The conclusion of such a ban constitutes one of the six major goals in arms control and disarmament of the present Canadian government.

Current Canadian Position

Among Canada's recent contributions to biological and chemical arms