

3. Chemical Weapons

or retain chemical or biological weapons. In addition they reaffirm their commitment to a chemical weapons convention and pledge to cooperate and facilitate the completion of a convention.

CURRENT CANADIAN POSITION

Canada has signed and ratified the Geneva Protocol and has a long tradition of supporting efforts to limit chemical weapons. It has participated in the negotiations at the United Nations since they began, and over the years, the government has made a large number of important submissions to the negotiations. (For further information see *The Guide 1991* and *The Guide 1990*.)

Canada's special interest at the CD negotiations has been in the area of verification. As part of its contribution to the negotiations, over the years Canada has undertaken a number of working papers, meetings and trial inspections to investigate verification issues relating to the chemical weapons convention.³

In a speech to the First Committee at the United Nations, Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament, Peggy Mason noted:

The CD's negotiations on a chemical weapons convention have made significant headway over the past year. Nonetheless, important differences on crucial issues remain and must be overcome before a global, comprehensive and effectively verifiable chemical weapons ban can be concluded. We believe that these issues can be resolved in 1992.⁴

Canada co-sponsored two resolutions on chemical weapons which were adopted by consensus at the UN General Assembly in 1991. Resolution 46/57B calls on all states to maintain strict adherence to the Geneva Protocol and welcomes regional and international efforts to facilitate the conclusion of a chemical weapons convention. Resolution 46/35C *inter alia*, urges the CD to conclude a chemical weapons convention

³ The most recent submissions to the CD include: Government of Canada. *The Chemical Weapons Convention and the International Inspectorate: A Quantitative Study*. Ottawa: August 1991; and Government of Canada. CD/1052, 31 January 1991, which provides a report on a joint Canada-Netherlands trial inspection. Also: Government of Canada. *Handbook for the Investigation of Allegations of the Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons*. Ottawa: 1985. Department of External Affairs. *Verification Methods, Handling and Assessment of Unusual Events in Relation to Allegations of the use of Novel Chemical Warfare Agents*. Ottawa, March 1990.

⁴ "Canadian Statement to the First Committee," *The Disarmament Bulletin*, No. 18, Winter 1991/92: 9.