

In December 1985 Canada presented the UN Secretary-General with a 174-page Handbook for the Investigation of Allegations of the Use of Chemical or Biological Weapons which sets out detailed operational methods for the investigation of such allegations. In 1986 Canada tabled a further document at the CD concerning an international system for classifying chemical substances.

At the beginning of 1986 the Canadian ambassador to the CD, J. Alan Beesley told the Conference that Canada was ready in principle to accept and apply the verification proposals tabled in the US draft treaty of 1984. He added that it would be of

...limited utility if we get an effective, bilateral convention which is not a comprehensive convention in both senses in extending to all the main issues under negotiation and compromising a genuine non-proliferation convention.²

In July 1986 Mr. Beesley said that in the course of the lengthy negotiations it had become apparent that there was "unlikely to be agreement on the precise substances to be controlled until there is also agreement on exactly what type of controls would be applied".³

Canada co-sponsored two of the three resolutions on chemical and biological weapons which were proposed at the UN General Assembly. Resolution 41/58 C urged the CD to accelerate its negotiations and called upon all states to co-operate in efforts to ban chemical weapons. It was passed by a vote of 137-0-14. Resolution 41/58 D asked the CD to spend more time on chemical weapons negotiations and to re-establish the Ad Hoc committee in 1987. It was adopted without a vote. Canada abstained on an East German Resolution, 41/58 B, which called on all states to cease from producing chemical weapons and from using them against others.

² Disarmament Bulletin, Winter 85-Spring 86, p. 14.

³ DEA, Chemical Weapons - Final Records (PV), Conference on Disarmament, 1986 Session.