

# COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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## YUGOSLAVIA WORKING PAPER

### Some aspects of verification in a chemical weapons convention

During the negotiations held so far in the CCD and CD as well as in the working papers of some delegations it has been emphasized that verification is the basis for reaching an agreement in the elaboration of a convention on the ban of chemical weapons. Objective considerations of the verification procedure have indicated the complexity of this problem, both from its technical and political aspects. However, it can be concluded that there exists an agreement in principle on most of the technical issues of verification.

As is known, the Geneva Protocol of 1925 prohibits the use in war of chemical weapons. Since the Protocol of 1925 does not specifically prohibit the development, production and stockpiling of CWA, this was taken by some major military powers as a justification for intensive research to obtain new types of chemical weapons. Other industrialized countries also have experience in research and development of CWA, of types and quantities of CWA's which are used for the purpose of technical and medical protection (the developing of protective equipment, detection, decontamination, medical treatment and other).

At the meetings of the Committee on Disarmament and the group of experts held during 1980, 1981 and 1982, there was a harmonization of views regarding a series of very important issues such as: the scope of the future convention, definitions of chemical weapons and toxicity criteria, as well as on the need for States to declare their chemical weapon stocks and production units and agree to a fixed time-table for their destruction. However, the appearance of binary weapons has introduced new elements, even in cases when agreement had, in principle, been reached. Thus, for instance, the components of relatively low toxicity and non-toxic components (precursors) which are an integral part of binary weapons cannot be categorized according to the already adopted toxicity criteria of CWA. The fact that binary weapons contain "non-toxic" substances is of importance only to those who produce and possess such weapons and this primarily when it concerns their production, stockpiling and destruction. However, if one bears in mind the purpose of binary weapons, there