CD/961, thiodiglycol has been placed on schedule 2A, although there have been suggestions that it should possibly be placed on schedule 3. The argument for placing it on schedule 3 relates to the extent of its use in industry and the possible difficulty in applying intensive verification measures. This situation made thiodiglycol a useful candidate for further analysis.

3. There are two agreed criteria for Schedule 2A, while a third is still under discussion. The first of these relates to the use of a substance as a key precursor in the synthesis of a schedule 1 chemical, and the second to the potential risk that it poses to the Convention. The third criterion involves the commercial production quantities of the chemical, although no upper limits have yet been established for schedule 2. Thiodiglycol clearly meets the first two criteria.

4. Schedule 3 is concerned with two groups of chemicals: dual purpose and precursor chemicals. Dual purpose chemicals are toxic materials which have a previous history of use as chemical weapons and so pose some risk to the objectives of the convention, but which are produced in such large commercial quantities that routine inspection techniques are difficult to apply. The agreed characteristics of precursor chemicals on schedule 3 are that they are important in the production of one or more chemicals listed in schedule 1 or schedule 2, although they are usually more than one step away from the final product. They are produced in large commercial quantities for a variety of industrial uses. However schedules 2 and 3 may overlap in terms of the commercial production quantities involved.

5. Commercial production data for thiodiglycol is difficult to obtain. While some studies are underway, definitive information has not yet reached the Conference on Disarmament. However, thiodiglycol is known to have a variety of specialty uses. For instance, an industrial applications review prepared by Morton Thiokol, Inc, indicates that it is used in elastomers, lubricants, stabilizers, antioxidants, inks, dyes, photographic/copying processes, antistatic agents, epoxides, coatings, metal plating and textiles.

6. In order to explore further the notion of commercial utility, and in particular the potential uses of thiodiglycol, a literature survey was carried out using Chemical Abstracts from 1975 to 1988. This survey produced 346 references from 26 countries. An unusually large number of these references, some 56 %, came from industry; even more unusual was that some 52 % of the total resulted from the patent literature, indicating further that thiodiglycol is considered to be a useful chemical. The appended tables