

ON-SITE INSPECTION ON CHALLENGE

This paper represents the state of affairs of work done on the issue of On-Site Inspection on Challenge, as seen by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for the 1987 session and by the Chairman of Group C for the 1988 session. Nothing contained therein constitutes any agreement and therefore does not bind any delegation. The paper is presented with the aim of facilitating for delegations to analyse the situation and to arrive at common positions in the future work of the Committee.

Under Part I, (paras. 1-13) material is found on the initial process for an on-site inspection on challenge, up until the submission of the report by the inspectors, as put together by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for the 1987 session. Under Part II (paras. 14-18), material is found on the process after the submission of the report, as put together by the Chairman of Group C for the 1988 session.

PART I

1. Each State Party has the right at any time to request an on-site inspection of any site under the jurisdiction or control 1/ of a State Party, anywhere, in order to clarify doubts about compliance with the provisions of the Convention. A requesting State is under the obligation to keep the request within the objectives of the Convention.
2. Throughout the inspection the requested State has the right and is under the obligation to demonstrate its compliance with the Convention.
3. The on-site inspection on challenge shall be carried out in accordance with the request.

(The initiation of a challenge inspection)

4. The request shall be submitted to the Head of the Technical Secretariat. 2/ It shall as precisely as possible specify the site to be inspected and the matters on which reassurance is required, including the circumstances and nature of the suspected non-compliance, as well as indicate the relevant provision(s) of the Convention, about which doubts of compliance have arisen.
5. The Head of the Technical Secretariat shall immediately notify the State Party to be inspected, and inform the members of the Executive Council about the request.

1/ The question of "jurisdiction or control" spans over many parts of the Convention. It is under continuous discussion and the exact formulations remain to be agreed upon.

2/ It has been pointed out that there is a need to discuss ways and means to prevent misuse of such requests. One suggested approach is to transmit the request through a Fact-finding Panel.