

4.0 POTENTIAL DANGERS DUE TO CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY

This section of the paper reviews potential dangers due to changes in technology related to novel toxins and bioregulators. These dangers include potential changes in military utility, proliferation, and new incapacitating agents. Extrapolation of current technological trends will also be discussed.

4.1 Changes in Potential Military Utility

As was detailed in the previous sections, there have been three interrelated scientific and technical developments which have a significant impact on any discussion of novel toxic compounds. These developments include:

- (1) scientific advances, resulting in the development of several methods for the large-scale production of biologically active peptides;
- (2) dramatic technical advances in the world-wide biotechnology industry, resulting in commercially validated processes involved in the production, purification and delivery of peptides; and,
- (3) the beginnings of a scientific revolution in the understanding of the role of peptide bioregulators in controlling biological processes.