

(ii)

1. Scope of regular checks

At the start and end of the period envisaged in the convention the committee carries out inspections with regard to all declared chemical agent stocks and production plants to be destroyed and monitors on a continuous basis their destruction by means of suitable technical devices (e.g. flow-meters). For the duration of the destruction measures and for the regular monitoring to verify observance of the convention the committee will carry out on-site inspections of production and storage facilities, the percentage being determined annually by casting lots. These regular checks will cover the following:

- the destruction of stocks of supertoxic chemical weapons, including their binary components,
- the destruction of facilities for manufacturing supertoxic chemical warfare agents and munitions,
- checks of current industrial production of organo-phosphorus substances to ensure that supertoxic warfare agents or their binary components are not produced for hostile purposes,
- checks to ensure that the quantity of supertoxic chemical warfare agents permitted by the convention and manufactured and stored in the declared plants is not exceeded.

2. Explanations

(a) The procedure whereby the committee establishes each year by casting lots the number of plants to be examined offers the following advantages:

- each Contracting State is given equal treatment, which in turn contributes to a business-like and co-operative atmosphere.
- verification is set on an appropriate basis in terms of expenditure and manpower.
- no Contracting Party knows until shortly before the inspection is to take place which objects and facilities in its territory are to be examined. This means a high risk for any party intending to violate the convention.

(b) When the convention comes into force, a declaration is made of existing stocks of chemical weapons by type and quantity as well as of manufacturing and munitions-producing facilities. The possibility of submitting a complete declaration as a confidence-building measure already when signing the convention might be considered. The declaration marks the beginning of preparations for destroying all chemical warfare agents prohibited by the convention. Verification by the committee of the destruction of munitions and non-munitions stocks is restricted to the supertoxic chemical agents (CD/220) and their binary components defined by toxicity criteria in the convention. In view of the military significance and the effort required in terms of equipment and manpower, it is acceptable to forgo verifying the destruction of all chemical warfare agents prohibited by the convention.