

(Tier 2). Also, the Standing Advisory Committee could make suggestions for further investigations, even before assembly of the ad hoc Advisory Group (Tier 2).

As suggested in Sections 3.1 and 3.2, and on the basis of the experience of the examples listed in Section 4.0, any investigation of an unusual event involving a toxic chemical will need:

- a strong scientific leadership to ensure that a multidisciplinary investigative team remains focused on the problem at hand; and
- the rapid establishment of a multidisciplinary investigative team comprising all necessary expertise. As the toxicant or toxin with which one is dealing, will not be known, flexibility and innovative approach are most important.

These needs can be met by the Standing Advisory Committee, as described above. It is proposed, therefore, that Canada establish such a permanent Standing Advisory Committee. Should similar bodies be created in other countries, it would be advantageous to arrange for occasional bi- or multi-lateral meetings of such groups in due course, perhaps under the umbrella of a Scientific Advisory Committee established pursuant to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

## 5.2 Investigations to be Conducted

### 5.2.1 Introduction

Leaving aside for a moment the thorny question of how, when, and where to collect samples while hostile actions are under way, most chemical and biological warfare agents can be detected and identified by a variety of methods. However, the first, and