

basis of reliable information from open sources. Clearly, intelligence information coming from one or more national authorities has serious drawbacks as a basis for international action. Nevertheless, it can focus attention on an area of concern which, in turn, could contribute to arguments for an investigation by the appropriate international agency.

In 1980, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 35/144C authorizing the Secretary-General to establish a Group of Experts to investigate certain allegations. The mandate of the Group was extended in 1981 by Resolution 36/96C. The most significant problem encountered by the Group in executing its mandate was that it was not permitted access to the sites where the alleged attacks with chemical weapons were said to have taken place, and the conclusions of the Group's reports (A/36/613 and A/37/259) reflect this fact. This experience contributed considerably to the movement within the General Assembly to authorize the Secretary-General not only to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons, but also to take certain steps in anticipation of such a requirement. This authority under Resolution 37/98D is discussed below in greater detail.

In late-1983 and early-1984, other allegations of the use of chemical weapons prompted the Secretary-General to initiate an investigation on his own authority under Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations. It was within the same framework that the Secretary-General had the investigation continued in 1985. In both instances, the Secretary-General reported his findings to the Security Council.

Resolution 37/98D, on provisional procedures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol, was mentioned earlier. Paragraph 4 of