

7.0 Requirements for Analyses in Specialized Laboratories

7.1 Personnel

It must be assumed that a laboratory, selected by the Ad hoc Advisory Group (see Section 5.1), has the qualified personnel, plus the necessary support staff, including persons trained in computer retrieval of technical information.

7.2 Facilities

The required laboratories will have to be fully equipped with state-of-the-art instruments and be capable of working under pressure to identify the problem chemicals contained in the samples received as part of the investigation of allegation of use of novel chemical weapons. At the present there would be a need for designated laboratories to carry out such investigations. One would have to make use of existing government, university or consulting laboratories capable of complying with the high standards enunciated by many countries for clinical and non-clinical studies of novel drugs and chemicals, i.e., the principles of Good Laboratory Practice and Quality Control.

If the Chemical Weapons Convention has already entered into force, the Technical Secretariat will almost certainly have its own central laboratory. These facilities would be properly equipped to carry out such investigations. The costs of establishing and maintaining such a laboratory mainly for the investigation of suspected breaches of a CWC might be prohibitive. However, as has been pointed out earlier (Schiefer and Sutherland, 1984) and suggested also by Cassell (1983) such a laboratory could serve other useful purposes if it had excess capacity. It could investigate global pollution, toxic waste problems and unusual disasters like those described in Section 4. Such duties would