

two working papers to the CD in 1980, the first on ways of organizing and controlling verification, and the second on the definition and scope of a chemical weapons treaty. These papers resembled the previous eight Canadian submissions to the various prior incarnations of the CD in emphasizing verification, and the definition and promotion of a chemical weapons treaty. Two working papers submitted in 1981 dealt with (1) verification and control requirements for a chemical weapons treaty, and (2) the disposal of chemical agents.²

In 1983, Canadian Ambassador Donald McPhail chaired the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons. He is credited with facilitating tangible advances in the negotiating process. Drawing from recent Soviet and American working papers that laid out their respective positions in a comprehensive fashion, the Group developed a consensus document which identified the elements of a comprehensive treaty, and outlined areas of agreement and disagreement.

Some progress was made during 1983 but resolution of the problems involving verification and compliance remained elusive. Disagreement remained over how extensive the list of banned precursors (those chemicals used as the basis for various chemical weapons) should be, especially since many have accepted industrial uses. A longstanding problem is the dispute between those who emphasize national security demands for non-intrusive means of verification, and those states insisting on more stringent means of control.

²Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, Committee on Disarmament, Chemical Weapons - Working Papers, 1969-1982 Sessions, Arms Control and Disarmament Division of the Department of External Affairs, April 1983. (This reference contains all the Canadian working papers through 1982. None were submitted between 1983 and 1985, in part because of the Canadian chairmanship in 1983 and early 1984. In 1986 two papers were submitted.)