

development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons. It was also decided to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee for 1987. Progress in the CD negotiations in 1987 has given rise to the hope that agreement might be reached early in 1988. Draft provisions under discussion involve the establishment of an organization to supervise the destruction and dismantling of production facilities over a period of ten years and methods to ensure that the agreement is respected.

In February 1987 the Soviet Union agreed to reveal the location of its stockpiles. While this represented an important change in the Soviet position it still failed to meet Western demands for obligatory challenge inspections on short notice. In April the Soviet Union announced that it had stopped producing chemical weapons.

Several questions concerning a ban on chemical weapons still remain. They include: a definition of chemical weapons; the identification of the main agents to be banned; the question of acceptable usage of chemicals; and the destruction of existing stockpiles and factories.

### Current Canadian Position

In order to compensate for limitations in the Geneva Protocol and in the hope of providing a basis for further multilateral negotiations, Canada has submitted several working papers to the CD since 1980. These dealt with the definition and promotion of a treaty and the need for verification.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Conference 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. In 1986 Canada published an indexed compendium of all chemical weapons documentation for the period 1983-85.