

logical weapons. As you are fully aware, the use of such weapons would constitute a violation of either the 1925 Geneva Protocol or the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention, or both. The international community ignores such acts at its peril.

Your initiatives to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons have been greatly appreciated in Canada, and have had our full support. If, regrettably, further investigative initiatives by you become necessary, you can count on Canada's continued support. It is, therefore, with particular pleasure that I am conveying to you, on behalf of the Government of Canada, the formal results of our work in the form of a *Handbook for the Investigation of Allegations of the Use of Chemical or Biological Weapons*.

This document constitutes a manual of procedures which would be useful to UN experts who may be called upon to investigate such an allegation. An impar-

tial investigation would determine, to the extent possible, whether or not there are grounds to support the allegation. It is for this reason, we strongly believe, that a comprehensive and known set of procedures should exist to conduct a timely on-site investigation, a point which has been made many times in the past by the Experts appointed by you. This Handbook identifies procedures, equipment and standard formats which would go a long way to ensuring that the findings of an investigation are as conclusive, as convincing, and as impartial as they can possibly be.

Canada will continue to explore ways in which it might make further practical contributions to the reinforcement of international law prohibiting the use of chemical or biological weapons. We hope that our efforts will stimulate other concerned governments to continue and to increase their own efforts to the same end. Only through the concerted activity of the international community can present and future generations be

spared the scourge of these weapons of mass destruction.

We see this Handbook as the first substantive manifestation of what we had in mind in putting forward with other co-sponsors resolution L.62/Rev.1 on 'Verification in All its Aspects,' which was adopted without a vote in the First Committee on November 22, 1985. We see procedures such as these being relevant to the on-going negotiations and eventual agreement on a comprehensive prohibition of chemical weapons. While awaiting such agreement, we see this Handbook as a contribution to the role of your office and the United Nations in ensuring that allegations of the use of chemical or biological weapons be investigated in a timely and effective manner.

We would certainly be pleased to be associated with any follow-on action which might be prompted by this Handbook.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration."

## Canada and USA Renew NORAD Agreement



Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan at signing of NORAD agreement. PMO

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and US President Ronald Reagan signed a five-year extension of the NORAD agreement during their Summit meeting in Washington, March 18-19. The two leaders noted that "the extension of the NORAD agreement is fully consistent with the provisions of the ABM treaty and is in full accordance with other US and Canadian treaty obligations." Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan also discussed the Geneva arms control negotiations and underlined the importance of making progress in these negotiations. During their discussions they also underlined the importance of full compliance with existing arms control obligations.

The NORAD agreement, first signed in May 1958, provides for joint Canada-US arrangements in regard to North American air defence, aerospace surveillance and early warning of ballistic missile attack. The term NORAD stands for North American Aerospace Defence Command.