CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/CW/WP.346
25 June 1991

Original: ENGLISH

Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

INFORMATION PROCESSING FOR CW MONITORING

1.0 Introduction

Upon entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), State Parties will be required to declare all facilities and chemicals covered by the provisions of the Convention. These declarations fall into two general categories: initial and periodic. Initial declarations may take place either when the CWC first enters into force, or at later times when newly initiated activities in a member state are subject to the provisions of the Convention. Periodic declarations would pertain to chemicals on any or all Schedules 1, 2, and 3. The Organization will be required to verify compliance of all State Parties with these provisions.

To carry out its obligations the Organization would have to implement an information processing system that would receive reports from member states, and data generated by its own data-collection mechanism as input to the evaluation of compliance. The totality of the various data sets would be analyzed, and the results would be evaluated, in the process of monitoring compliance by the state.

The information processing system should be designed to process the data in a cost-effective manner within the constraints imposed on the Organization by the CWC. Some of the parameters that would affect the design are: classes of data, locations where particular classes of data are needed, timeliness of access to a particular class, frequency of use, type and complexity of processing for a given class, security of, and access control to the data.

At this time, the information processing requirements have not been identified in any substantive detail. It is generally accepted that reports from the member states and monitoring activities by the Organization will contribute to the establishment of a data base; some efforts are under way to determine some of its contents. In a companion paper the United States has suggested some elements that should be included in an analytical data base.