

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 cosponsors resolution L.62/Rev.1 on "Verification in All its Aspects", which was adopted without a vote in the First Committee on 22 November 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.