

Canada has signed and ratified both the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). Since the conclusion of the BWC, Canada has shown great interest in the elaboration of verification measures to strengthen its enforcement. Canada was an active participant at the *ad hoc* meeting of scientific and technical experts held in Geneva in March and April 1987, in accordance with the provisions of the Final Declaration of the second review conference of the BWC. There, Canada contributed to a better understanding of the utility of adopting criteria relating to disease outbreaks, as well as containment standards for research facilities.⁸

Successive Canadian governments have also sought to help define and promote a chemical weapons convention, as well as to ensure its effective verification. Indeed, the conclusion of such a ban constitutes one of the six major goals in arms control and disarmament of the present Canadian Government. Prominent among Canada's initiatives has been its submission to the CD of various working papers relating to a chemical weapons ban.⁹

Canada has also produced a *Handbook for the Investigation of Allegations of the Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons*, in 1985; sponsored three investigations of alleged Soviet use of toxin weapons in South East Asia;¹⁰ and presented to the CD a series of compendia on chemical weapons negotiations comprising documents from its ongoing sessions. Finally, the Canadian Government has actively expressed its condemnation of the use of chemical weapons, most recently in the Iran-Iraq War.¹¹

More recently, Canada has helped work towards the conclusion of an international convention on chemical weapons by organizing or participating in a number of activities to promote its adoption. In October 1988, for example, Canada hosted a meeting at the University of Calgary of a small number of experts from the United States, the United Kingdom, West

⁸ "Biological Weapons: Successful Conference Outcome." *The Disarmament Bulletin*, (Summer-Fall 1987), p. 10.

⁹ See, for instance: Canada and Norway, *Proposal for an Annex to Article IX Concerning Verification of Alleged Use of Chemical Weapons*, CD/766 (2 July 1987); and Canada, *Factors Involved in Determining Verification Inspectorate Personnel and Resource Requirements*, CD/823 (31 March 1988).

¹⁰ *Handbook for the Investigation of Allegations of the Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons*. Ottawa: Department of External Affairs, November 1985; Butler, G.C., *Report on the Use of Chemical Warfare in Southeast Asia* (Memo to External Affairs), 2 December 1981; Shiefer, H.B., *Study of the Possible Use of Chemical Warfare in Southeast Asia* (A Report to the Department of External Affairs), Ottawa, 1982; Norman, J. J., and Purdon, J. J., *Final Summary Report on the Investigation of Yellow Rain Samples from Southeast Asia*. Ottawa: Defence Research Establishment, February 1986; Department of External Affairs, Arms Control and Disarmament Division, *Conference on Disarmament: Chemical Weapons Working Papers, 1986 Session*, Ottawa, June 1987; and Department of External Affairs, Arms Control and Disarmament Division, *Conference on Disarmament: Chemical Weapons-Final Records (PV), 1986 Session*, Ottawa, June 1987.

¹¹ Department of External Affairs, *Communiqué* No. 068, 25 March 1988.