

PREFACE

This report is the third in a series which examines the potential contribution that collateral analysis can make to the consideration of issues related to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC).

The Gulf War prompted unprecedented concerns about the potential use of biological and toxin weapons, which use would have violated the 1925 Geneva Protocol. Public speculation and media reports at the time suggested that Israel was a likely target for the use of such weapons, as were certain other states of the region as well as assembled coalition forces.

Israel has not signed and is not a Party to the BTWC. However, there are abundant signs that Israel is prepared to address regional and global security concerns in a variety of ways, including through arms control agreements.

The quest for international security and stability includes continuing efforts to convince those States not party to international agreements to reconsider their positions and to examine security issues from a number of viewpoints, including that of other regional neighbours. There is also an inherent right of States Parties to a global treaty to be concerned about States who have not assumed the same obligations.

Since so much of the concern about biological and toxin weapons falls in the realm of dual-use technology, any detailed discussion of such matters must inevitably comprise an assessment --a "picture" -- of States' technological capabilities. Only on such a basis can an informed discussion take place. It was with this in mind that Canada embarked upon the collateral analysis of publications of three States Parties (Iraq, Iran and Canada) and one non-party (Israel) to the BTWC. These countries were chosen because their levels of technological