

maximize the deterrent effect of such a system. That the fact that an inspection had just been carried out at a particular facility would not exclude another check on that particular facility in the near future if the lot fell on it again. This would discourage States from beginning illegal activities at a facility immediately after an inspection had been carried out on the assumption that that facility was temporarily safe from inspection. The precise timing of the selection of the sites to be inspected would be left to the inspection team, thus increasing the deterrent effect of the regime.

Inspection Procedures

7. Once a site had been selected for inspection, the inspection should be carried out as soon as possible, since modifications to a facility could be made very quickly to cover up any suspicious circumstances. A period of one week is suggested. Any delay should be satisfactorily explained and a pattern of bureaucratic delays, e.g. refusal to grant entry visas etc., in allowing a team of inspectors to visit a facility would be taken as a prima facie indication that a breach of the Convention had occurred.

8. Inspections carried out in the way described above would be part of an over-all system of routine inspections to ensure implementation of the convention. The organization of inspections and the system of appointment of inspectors would therefore depend on the detailed provisions agreed. In general terms, however, an international inspectorate is envisaged which would involve the appointment of a panel of independent technical inspectors. The inspectors would need to be assisted by a permanent technical secretariat established at an appropriate place. Both the inspectorate and the fixed secretariat would be responsible to the Consultative Committee. The experience of the safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency might be of value in the establishment of such machinery.

9. The procedures which the inspectors would be permitted to use would need to be set out in general terms in the convention itself or in an annex to it. Within the limits thus laid down, however, it would be desirable for the inspectorate to have scope for the technical development of their own procedures and some latitude for their application under the different conditions prevailing at different facilities. In carrying out their duties the inspectors would act under the authority of the Consultative Committee, which could from time to time issue guidelines within the authority given to them by the convention.

10. The objectives of on-site inspections would be to ensure:

- (i) that the quantities of a particular substance being produced at the facility under inspection are compatible with the declared use;
- (ii) that any stockpiling is carried out in a manner and quantity compatible with the declared civil use;
- (iii) that the production facilities have not been modified in such a way that they could be used to produce chemical warfare agents.

11. Bearing in mind the purpose of on-site inspection as described above, it is proposed that procedures should be discussed by the Working Group (in particular during consultations with technical experts) under the following headings: