

ARTICLE IV

ELIMINATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS^{1/}

1. Each State Party possessing chemical weapons undertakes to eliminate through destruction or diversion,^{2/} as rapidly as possible, all chemical weapons under its jurisdiction or control in accordance with the Principles for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons laid down in Annex IV.
2. The elimination shall commence within ...^{3/} months and be completed within 10 years after the Convention's entry into force for a State Party, and shall be carried out in accordance with the Principles for the Order of Elimination laid down in Annex IV and the plans submitted under Article III.
3. The elimination process shall be carried out in such a way that the end products are unsuitable for chemical weapons purposes.
4. Each State Party possessing chemical weapons undertakes to facilitate and not to hinder in any way the application of the Principles and Methods for the Verification of the Elimination of Chemical Weapons, laid down in Annex IV.
5. In implementing the provisions of this article all necessary safety precautions shall be observed to protect populations and the environment.

^{1/} The question of old unknown weapons or stocks which have been left by others without the knowledge of the State Party, is not addressed in this Article. It is understood that this question will be dealt with at a later stage of the negotiations at which time the placement in the Convention of the relevant provisions will also be decided.

^{2/} One delegation stated that it was unconvinced that diversion was either a practical or economical method for elimination. It may be prepared, however, to review its position in the event a practical system for diversion can be devised, preserving the requirement for effective verification.

^{3/} The figure to be inserted here depends on a later decision as regards the Principles for the Order of Elimination in Annex IV.