

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is now agreed by all parties involved in the negotiations of a Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) at Geneva that the complexities of compliance are such that verification of compliance will of necessity have to be carried out at the international level by a highly skilled organization. However, little thought has been given as to how the potential States Party to such a Convention will provide evidence of compliance to the International Authority. This paper has reviewed these national obligations from a Canadian perspective and presents for further study an analysis of the extent of the problem for Canada, together with suggestions as to how a Chemical Weapons Convention could be implemented in Canada.

As a nation which does not have any Chemical Weapons Production Facilities (CWPF), nor possesses Chemical Weapons (CW), and whose chemical industry is not (now) concerned with chemicals of direct interest to such a Convention, the duties of a National Authority can be assigned to an existing agency such as the Department of the Environment.

As the CWC evolves, attention will need to be given to the Canadian enabling legislation and its relationship to other legislation and to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.