

scientists, and Canadian Embassy officials, in addition to visiting refugee camps on the Laotian and Cambodian borders with Thailand, where he collected control samples and conducted interviews with victims of alleged attacks. His report concludes that events which are reported to have taken place at the time of alleged chemical weapons attacks cannot be explained on the basis of naturally occurring phenomena. Neither mycotoxins nor diseases naturally occurring in Southeast Asia can explain the reported symptoms of victims of the alleged chemical weapons attacks. The symptoms described, however, are consistent with tricothecene mycotoxicosis. The UN Experts' Group is to report to the General Assembly in the fall and it is hoped that Dr. Schiefer's report will provide a valuable scientific contribution to its work. In particular, Dr. Schiefer's report should serve to answer the many scientific questions that have been posed, particularly by the Soviet Union, regarding the natural occurrence of mycotoxins in Southeast Asia.

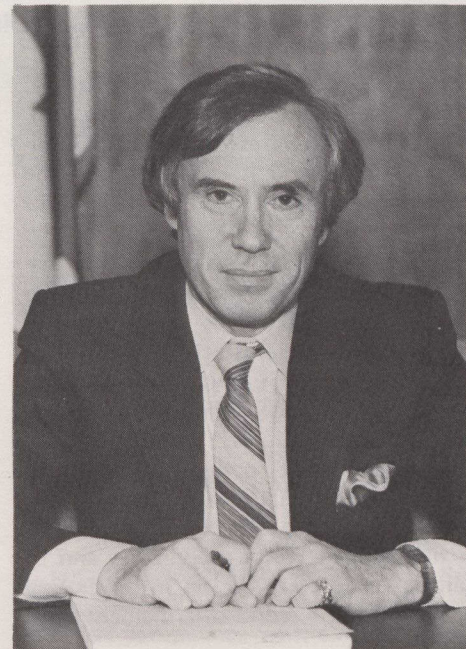
Dr. Schiefer's report, in its final conclusion, identified an urgent need to improve the verification and control procedures for chemical and/or biological weapons in order to determine if they are being used in Southeast Asia.

The report, which received much media coverage will be translated by the United Nations into French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, and Arabic, and circulated as a UN document, a rare undertaking. Two other reports on the same issue have been made available to the United Nations by

Canada. The first, an epidemiological investigation by a medical team from the Surgeon General Branch of the Department of National Defence was conducted in March 1982. Separate from the investigation carried on by Dr. Schiefer, and approaching the issue from the epidemiological perspective, the conclusions reached were strikingly similar. This report was submitted to the United Nations on August 25, 1982.

On September 7, 1982 the Department of External Affairs submitted a third report which constituted interviews obtained on a voluntary basis by Canadian immigration officers from refugees who claimed to have experienced CW attacks in April 1982. Similar in some respect to Canada's initial submission in March 1981, this report included photographs taken by the Canadian officials and certain other details.

Throughout this exercise now spanning some 15 months, the Canadian government has never attempted to point an accusing finger at any particular authority. It had been hoped that an increased public awareness of the issue would have resulted in the cessation of CW use from whatever source. This appears not to have happened. Nevertheless, in supporting the United Nations Group of Experts by providing data in addition to that obtained by the Group itself, Canada is hopeful that the international community can determine the facts and come to a conclusion. The Group of Experts is expected to submit its report at the 37th session of the General Assembly.



Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan.

already exchanging data on a provisional basis. In several months, Canada will be able to join these countries and, therefore, to be a full member of the Exchange from the outset. Canada has called for the early implementation of the Exchange in advance of a treaty.

Canada has been playing an active role in the Chemical Weapons (CW) Working Group of the Committee on Disarmament since its inception three years ago. A Canadian technical expert has been made available to the Canadian Delegation in Geneva for brief periods. Henceforth it will be possible to provide an expert for longer periods as and when warranted, thereby more effectively applying internationally recognized Canadian expertise in defensive measures in the course of negotiations on a treaty banning chemical weapons.

The increase in the Disarmament Fund will be used to assist research and teaching facilities in Canada through contributions and contracts. An initial step already underway is to provide depository libraries in Canada with the documents of the multilateral negotiating body in Geneva for the years 1974-1980, which most are missing, in order that they may have complete sets available to researchers. A second early step will be to increase assistance to research projects, which until now has been a relatively small part of the programme under the Disarmament Fund. As the Fund continues to grow in the next financial year, the programme will include assistance directed to enhancing teaching on arms control and disarmament.

New Initiatives in Arms Control and Disarmament

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced new initiatives in arms control and disarmament on July 7, 1982.

The initiatives underline the continuity of Canadian arms control and disarmament policy and reinforce the Government's commitment to the pursuit of verifiable agreements to limit and reduce forces. They are directly related to two specific Canadian priorities: to promote the realization of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty; and to assist in the preparation of a chemical weapons convention. They also include a substantial increase in the Disarmament Fund of the Department of External Affairs. This increase will permit a broadening of research and public information activities which have formed an important part of Canadian policy and

which have been a response to the recommendations in the Final Document of the first U.N. Special Session on Disarmament.

In the balance of the current financial year, which ends March 31, 1983, a total of \$300,000 has been allocated in addition to the existing Disarmament Fund of \$150,000. There will be a further substantial increase in the next financial year.

Part of the international verification provisions of a Comprehensive Test Ban (CTB) will be an International Seismic Data Exchange. Canada has been playing an active role for the past six years in the development of the exchange carried out in the Ad Hoc Group on Seismological Experts under the aegis of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva. Some countries are