

Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons

CANADA

Definitions, Schedules and Toxic Chemicals

Introduction

The Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons is again deeply involved in issues relating to Article VI on the non-production of chemical weapons. In particular, discussions have commenced on supertoxic lethal chemicals (STLCs) and it has been proposed to expand Schedule [2] to incorporate Schedule [...] as part B since the two verification procedures are quite similar. However, the assignment of chemicals to schedules on the basis of toxicity categories is incomplete and additional criteria have been difficult to formulate.

It is possible that some of the problems may be related to inconsistencies in the application of the definitions in Article II, resulting from the rapid progress in other parts of the rolling text. The definitions should be reviewed especially as they relate to schedules and the application of toxicity categories. The following charts and discussions are an attempt to show how the problems of definitions, toxicity and lists are interrelated and to underscore the need for review and revision.

CHART I

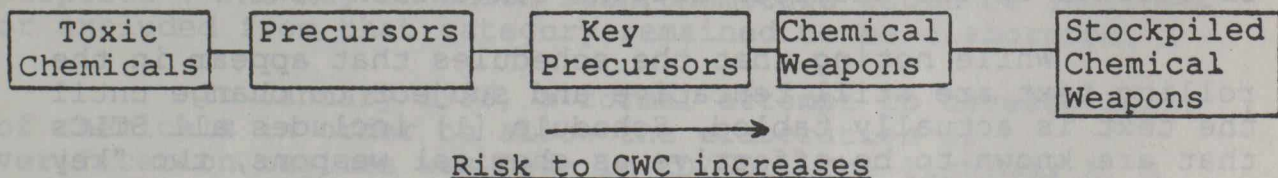


Chart I indicates that, in principle, all toxic chemicals could pose a risk to the Convention but that, in practice, the risk increases as one comes closer to those chemicals which could be used as chemical weapons, and that the risk is greatest with those that have the physical characteristics that make them suitable for loading, storage and dissemination in munitions.