

stockpiles should be subject to systematic international inspection, but there was disagreement over the particular inspection procedures to be used.

Since 1980 the UN Secretary General has conducted several enquiries into the alleged use of chemical weapons. Two of the reports which resulted from these enquiries, one in 1984 and the other in 1985, concluded that chemical weapons had been used in Iran. A report in 1986 confirmed that Iraq had been the country which had used these weapons. A further UN study, released on 13 May 1987, confirmed that the Iraqi forces were continuing to use chemical weapons and had even employed them against civilians. The UN Human Rights Commission also reported in November 1986 that certain types of chemical weapons had been used in Afghanistan by Soviet and Afghan troops.

In 1986 some progress was made in the Ad Hoc Committee of the CD on provisions concerning chemical weapons production facilities and effective ways of monitoring the chemical industry to ensure that production was not diverted for chemical weapons purposes. Agreement was reached in April on a preliminary list of chemicals used for industrial and military purposes. The United States provided detailed information concerning the nature and location of its stocks of chemical weapons. The Soviet Union declared itself in favour of intermediate measures to bring about an agreement and it accepted the principle of systematic on-site verification of the destruction or dismantling of production facilities. In the meantime, however, the United States and France both announced that they would resume production of chemical weapons in order to counter the Soviet Union's arsenal.

In the fall of 1986 the UN General Assembly adopted three resolutions calling on the Conference on Disarmament to intensify its efforts to achieve a convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the