

(Mrs. Rautio, Finland)

test has also been circulated as a working paper (CD/CW/WP.350) by Australia, Canada, China, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Finland, France, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. That working paper was introduced in the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons yesterday. In my presentation today, I will mainly deal with the conclusions of the test that are of more general interest than the analytical details as such.

In order that the exercise should follow a likely CWC scenario it was agreed that the samples for the second round-robin test should simulate an inspection of the chemical industry by including appropriate background chemicals. The laboratory that volunteered to prepare the samples chose to use charcoal, Tenax, XAD-2 and cotton buds as sample matrices in addition to aqueous samples. Some of the samples were spiked with octyl methylphosphonofluoridate, which, although a schedule 1 chemical, is not (within public knowledge) a CW agent. This meant that many laboratories did not have the necessary reference material (authentic reference substance or database information) to make a positive identification of the principal spiking substance. In the absence of a readily identifiable CW agent upon which to focus, the participating laboratories applied varying degrees of effort in identifying as many compounds as possible to allow judgement whether they were scheduled compounds.

Accordingly, to maximize the value of this second round-robin test, the objective of the test was changed from analysis of samples for CW agents and their degradation products to their content of any scheduled chemicals.

In the event the laboratories reported 17 scheduled chemicals, 31 other phosphorus-containing chemicals and 89 non-phosphorus chemicals. All laboratories identified the chemicals used as starting materials in the synthesis of the planned end-product, the pesticide dichlorvos. Only two laboratories reported chemicals belonging to schedule 1, the mixture of isomeric octyl methylphosphonofluoridates. All laboratories except one identified dimethyl methylphosphonate, which is a schedule 2 compound and appeared as an impurity of feedstock material. Six laboratories identified the mixture of isomeric dioctyl methylphosphonates which are also schedule 2 compounds and primary degradation products of the principal spiking compound. Three laboratories identified the mixture of methyl octyl methylphosphonates. Two laboratories reported detection of alkyl alkyl methylphosphonates but were not able to identify the actual alkyl groups. In addition to the octyl derivatives, four additional methyl phosphonates and methylphosphonic acid were reported.

All the participating laboratories considered the second round-robin test very useful, even though the original plan of the test did not materialize. The results obtained from the analysis of samples according to the revised objective probably raised many more questions than the original plan would have done.