

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/907

23 March 1989

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LETTER DATED 22 MARCH 1989 ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRALIA TRANSMITTING A DOCUMENT ENTITLED "PROVISION OF DATA RELEVANT TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION"

The Australian Government welcomes the move to greater openness by all States about their chemical production and facilities, as a contribution to greater confidence which will help move the CWC negotiations forward.

In Australia, the areas of the Department of Defence which have potential input to the data exchange exercise are the Materials Research Laboratory (MRL), Melbourne, and the three Services.

One of the functions of MRL is to conduct research on defence against chemical weapon agents, including therapy and prophylaxis, detection, decontamination, and development of chemical analysis methods for treaty verification. This research requires the use of laboratory quantities of some of the chemicals that are listed under Schedules 1, 2 and 3 in the current Rolling Text of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CD/874). Because of the small quantities of these chemicals that are synthesized and used at the Laboratory, it is anticipated that MRL will be covered by the arrangements for "Other Facilities" in the Rolling Text, rather than in the arrangements for a "Single Small Scale Production Facility".

In order to contribute to the negotiations on the Chemical Weapons Convention, Australia presents the attached data, based on document CD/828.

I should be grateful if you would take the necessary steps to circulate this letter and attachments as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed)

D.H. Reese  
Ambassador