

4. France

In September 1988, President Mitterrand stated before the UN General Assembly that France "has no chemical weapons". Until this declaration, there were those who believed France to be a CW possessor. For example, a 1970 report suggested that the Service des Poudres factory at Point-de-Clair specialized in chemical weapons¹, while Stashevsky², claimed that France possessed an offensive CW capability comprising some 450 tons of chemical agent in 7,500 tons of munitions. Moreover, in 1987, the French delegation to the CD proposed basing the order of destruction of CW on the concept of "security stocks", involving the maintenance of a CW stock at a secret location, which seemed to some to suggest that France either possessed or intended to acquire CW stocks. Also relevant was a 1987 announcement of the appropriation of 700 million francs as part of a five year plan which apparently provided for the production of chemical weapons. For these reasons, and these alone, France is considered separately.

1 J. Pergent, 1970. Services des Poudres. Force aériennes françaises, 24, 89-102 quoted by J.P. Perry Robinson in Chemical Weapons: Destruction and Conversion, Sipri, 1980.

2 G. Stashevsky, Chemical Weapons: The View from Moscow, Novosti Press Agency, Moscow, 1988