

scientists in April 1985. The Handbook for the Investigation of Allegations of the Use of Chemical or Biological Weapons was written in the summer/fall of 1985 and submitted to the United Nations Secretary-General in December 1985.

The field trip phase of this study consisted essentially in the collection of body-fluid samples from citizens of Thailand and refugees from Laos and Kampuchea, and included some limited interviewing of the subjects and documentation of medical histories when available. The majority of samples was collected from people who claimed not to have been subjected to hostile use of chemical/toxin agents. Various remote areas and groups were chosen in keeping with the "case study" scenario. The samples were returned to Canada for analysis, and the investigators were especially attentive to matters related to the collection, labelling, documentation, packaging, storage and transportation of these fragile samples from a remote area over long distances to an analytical laboratory.

It should be recalled that, prior to the late 1970s and early 1980s, there was no previous historical experience involving an investigation of the possible use of trichothecene mycotoxins for hostile purposes. Toxins, in general, are toxic chemical substances produced in nature under specific conditions by biological systems, although some of these chemicals can also be synthesized in the laboratory. While some research had been conducted on