

not definitive and is open to discussion. It comprises chemicals which are vital for the production of particularly potent, lethal and incapacitating chemical weapons. Fortunately many of these substances are manufactured in extremely small quantities if at all. Most of them are probably not produced at all in many countries. The table at annex shows, as far as those are known, civil purposes for which these substances are used and the number of factories known to be producing them in Britain. In order to demonstrate that the inspection of commercial facilities would not be too burdensome, it would be useful to know how many facilities worldwide produce the substances listed at annex. It would be helpful if members of this Committee would furnish corresponding data about their civil chemical industries.

Verification Regime for Key Precursors for Super-Toxic Chemicals

4. To be sure that the substances in the list of key precursors are not being used for the production of chemical weapons, it would be necessary, in the view of the British delegation, to subject the declared facilities which produce these substances to inspection as well as retaining procedures for verifying undeclared facilities. A possible verification regime for a limited number of civil chemical facilities is set out below. In the view of the British delegation, the appropriate verification regime for declared facilities would comprise the following components:

(a) declarations of facilities producing the chemicals listed at annex, and of facilities designed, constructed or used for such purposes in the past;

(b) periodic random selection of a number of all such declared facilities for on-site inspections;

(c) on-site inspection by a team of inspectors under the aegis of the Consultative Committee.

Declarations

5. A requirement should be included in the Declarations section of the Convention for all States Parties to declare any facilities on their territories which produce the substances listed at annex. Those countries failing to make such a declaration or those who submitted a nil return would of course still be subject to special inspections (category (v)). The first such declaration should be made within thirty days of the entry into force of the convention for the State Party concerned, and declarations should be made annually thereafter. The declaration should state the locations of the facilities, which substances are produced at a given facility and the current civil use to which the substances are put. Such information would be submitted to the appropriate body of the Consultative Committee.

Random Inspection

6. The facilities notified to the Consultative Committee in the way described in paragraph 5 above would become subject to random on-site inspection. These facilities would be subjected by the Secretariat of the Consultative Committee to a random selection procedure at intervals determined approximately by the agreed number of inspections. In deciding on the frequency of inspections to be carried out, the Consultative Committee would take into account the number of facilities declared, statistical sampling requirements and chemical engineering data on how much time would be needed to carry out prohibited activities. It is important that the process of selection should be carried out on a random basis, and that each selection should be made from the complete list of facilities, in order to