

Official clearances to allow certain types of material (e.g., biological matter) and other substances (e.g., toxic "standards", should they be required) will need to be arranged well in advance. Surprises, in terms of including in the shipment any materials other than those for which clearances have been obtained, could occasion delays and considerable difficulties. It would be better to ship any such additional materials separately.

It was concluded that time spent in preparatory activities (obtaining equipment and supplies and testing, and considering all of the details which would have to be taken into account) could be substantially reduced through the availability of a check-list of items to take (or, at least, to consider taking) and of things to do. An illustrative questionnaire would also be useful.

Finally, it was considered that training programmes would greatly contribute to the effectiveness of, and reduce the risk to, personnel who might be tasked with carrying out such an investigation. These programmes could include personal protection, hazard identification, sample collection (environmental and biomedical) and handling, decontamination, analysis in the field (if base camp analysis is envisaged), and first aid, to name a few subjects of interest.