

the Suffield base; and insuring that all future testing procedures be conducted in accordance with the new Canadian Environmental Protection Act.¹⁹

External Affairs Minister Joe Clark addressed the Paris Conference on Chemical Weapons on 8 January 1989. Noting that a ban on chemical weapons "will not happen overnight" and "will require reliable means of verification," the Minister nonetheless observed that great progress had been made in the negotiation of a global, comprehensive and verifiable agreement.²⁰ He called upon the conference itself to condemn the use of chemical weapons, reaffirm the Geneva Protocol while calling on additional states to adhere to it, and strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to investigate allegations of chemical weapons use.²¹

Canada, he stated, does not intend to develop, acquire or stockpile such weapons, unless they are used against the military forces or the civil population of Canada or its Allies. The Minister further observed that Canada was applying its obligations under the Protocol, to parties and non-parties alike, and had adopted a firm policy of non-production to help achieve a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons. He added that Canada had already advised other nations of the destruction of the bulk, useable chemical warfare agents it had stockpiled during the Second World War. With regard to the BWC, Mr. Clark reiterated Canada's 1970 declaration that it had never had any biological or toxin weapons and did not intend to develop, produce, acquire, stockpile or use such weapons at any time in the future.²²

Noting that only the United States and the Soviet Union had admitted their production and stockpiling of chemical weapons, Mr. Clark called upon other countries possessing chemical weapons to adopt a similar spirit of openness. Finally, he turned to the subject of the Convention itself. Here, he pointed out that the verification of a chemical weapons ban would be complex, expensive and intrusive. Until such time as a verifiable ban could be achieved, however, there was a need for self-restraint.²³ Mr. Clark concluded:

...the elimination of chemical weapons from the face of the earth is not merely a pragmatic necessity. More than a common sense assessment of our security interests is involved. The issue touches on our sense of ourselves as human beings....surely it is the responsibility of governments to seek to limit our capability to inflict abhorrent cruelties and punishments on each other. Chemical weapons use, inevitably involving civilian as well as military victims,

19 Department of National Defence, *Research Development and Training in Chemical and Biological Defence within the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces: A Review by William H. Barton*. Ottawa: Department of National Defence, 31 December 1988.

20 "Banning Chemical Weapons for All Times." *The Disarmament Bulletin* (Fall-Winter 1988), p. 3.

21 *Ibid.*

22 *Ibid.*

23 *Ibid.*, p. 4.