Part III

CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEEDS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Analytical instrumentation

There was a general agreement that the stage of development of analytical instrumentation currently available to the inspectors meets the requirements set by the Convention. All analytical tasks, 1) monitoring of known compounds, 2) monitoring of compounds for structure elucidation, 3) unambiguous identification of compounds, 4) structure elucidation of unknown chemicals, and 5) semiquantification, can be fulfilled. At present the most demanding analytical tasks can be performed in an off-site laboratory.

The need for mobile instrumentation was stressed partly because it reduces the need to transfer toxic samples and partly because of the need to preserve confidential information. At present instruments exist that can be used for unambiguous identification of CW agents during on-site inspections to verify declared activities.

Further development is needed in the miniaturization of even the most sophisticated techniques which will facilitate to resolve difficult problems even on-site e.g. during challenge inspections. This development trend is promising and should be stimulated.

Toxins may require other analytical techniques than those discussed during the meeting (see Annex on instruments).

Analytical and instrumental techniques cannot be relied upon to discover activities which will lead to launching of challenge inspections.