It was also suggested that data generated by instruments could be stored on-site and retrieved by inspectors during on-site visits so that no direct data produced by the sensors would need to be transmitted to the Technical Secretariat. What would need to be transmitted, however, is information (yes/no answer) that the sensors are working properly. This could be done via telephone lines, which would keep the cost low.

Storage of data on-site would allow easy access for the Inspectors to the data and the operators would have higher level of confidence in the protection of data than if the data were transmitted off-site. New techniques such as write-only lasers are under way for reliable data storage.

There should be fewer confidentiality problems in instrumental monitoring of dedicated facilities producing chemicals listed in Schedule 2 because there is less confidential information than in multipurpose facilities and it is easy to verify that the product type is not changed. Probably very few dedicated plants producing chemicals in Schedule 2 exist.

Most of the confidentiality problems are connected with the multipurpose facilities. The production of a variety of chemicals would increase the amount of data needed for verification. Inter alia, these facilities would have to prove the absence of chemicals listed in Schedule 2 when these are not being produced.

Ownership of the instrumentation used for verification

It was suggested that use of instruments already existing at the facility for process control should be maximized, but in a non-intrusive way. The possibility of using facility-owned instrumentation would depend on instruments available, the lay-out of the facility and of the reliability of the instruments installed. Therefore their use would have to be decided individually for each plant.

If facility-owned instruments were to be used, personnel of the facility would be in charge of their service, maintenance and calibration. This would necessitate the right for the Inspectors to check the calibration and perhaps to install additional, parallel instruments, owned by the International Organization, (e.g. flow or loadmeters) for redundancy.

Establishment of a group of international technical experts

It was suggested that it would be advantageous to establish an informal international group of technical experts in the framework of the Conference already at this stage of the negotiations to facilitate exchange of information on efforts under way in a number of countries on development of verification techniques, procedures, and devices. The technical experts group might also be useful in co-ordinating national efforts, including national inspection trials to assure that as many open questions as possible could be answered as a result of the trials. Results from the national inspections could also be evaluated by the technical body.