

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Working Paper on Verification and the Monitoring of
Compliance in a Chemical Weapons Convention

1. The United Kingdom considers that much useful work was carried out last year in the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons towards elaborating the elements of a Chemical Weapons Convention. We hope that the momentum of the work of this Group will be maintained by a deeper examination of all the issues under consideration last year, especially the important issues of verification and monitoring of compliance.

INTRODUCTION

2. The United Kingdom believes that, as is the case in many arms control agreements, it is necessary for all States party to a Convention to have reasonable confidence in the compliance of all other States parties, and that the provisions of a CW Convention would therefore need to include adequate measures for its verification. The United Kingdom considers that verification measures would be necessary for each stage of implementation - that is for declaration and destruction of stockpiles and production facilities - and thereafter to monitor the continued compliance of States to the provisions of the Convention dealing with non-production of chemical weapons, including the monitoring of permitted uses of chemical warfare agents and dual-purpose agents. It is also essential that the Convention has an effective complaints procedure for the handling of any doubts which might arise about the implementation of the Convention.

3. The verification of implementation must be under international control. Thereafter verification of compliance could be by a mixture of bilateral and multilateral contacts between States parties, with an international body - a Consultative Committee - playing a decisive role.

MONITORING COMPLIANCE

(a) Voluntary Bilateral Contacts

4. Although the United Kingdom believes that implementatin should be strictly monitored by an international body (the Consultative Committee), this period will provide many opportunities for confidence building. In this respect voluntary