

clear. Much of this technological progress, even when it results from perfectly legitimate, peaceful research programmes could, with distressingly little effort, be redirected toward illegitimate purposes of the kind prohibited by the Convention that we are reviewing. Indeed, such is the state of biotechnology that there is room for legitimate doubt that the Convention to which we are all parties can ever be verifiable to the standards of adequacy which many of us would normally require to be incorporated into any significant arms control and disarmament agreement.

There is another regrettable fact that must be taken into account during the course of our deliberations here. In contrast to the situation that prevailed at the time when the First Review Conference convened, there have in the intervening period been several allegations of serious breaches of the Convention. This is cause for major concern. Canada accepts that these allegations have not been made frivolously nor in the absence of disturbing evidence. The seriousness of the Canadian Government's concerns about these allegations is attested by our having conducted several investigations relating to allegations of toxin weapons use in Southeast Asia. These investigations have formed the basis of three separate submissions to the United Nations Secretary General. These investigations do not, in themselves, definitively confirm the use of toxin weapons in that