

attacks with chemical or biological weapons are alleged to have taken place. It also assumes that there will be a requirement to establish a base camp in a safe and "clean" area within a reasonable distance of the site(s) to be inspected. Of particular importance is the considered view that the investigating team should possess its own analytical capability. In addition, the investigating team should be equipped to prepare up to three sets of samples for onward transmission to designated laboratories for corroborative or further analysis. In this regard, certain of the functions of the investigating team as outlined in this Handbook differ somewhat from those outlined in the final report of the United Nations Group of Consultant Experts (see A/39/488 dated 2 October 1984).

Another aspect of this analytical capability relates to the interviewing activity, preferably using an epidemiological approach to the collection and interpretation of data. It would be appropriate to conduct a certain number of interviews of victims or observers of the alleged attack(s) with chemical or biological weapons prior to conducting the on-site sampling, as certain response patterns might result which could provide some guidance to the sample collection staff. Furthermore, it should be mentioned that sampling, base camp laboratory analysis and interviewing using an epidemiological approach are not independent exercises. Each should be structured and conducted in such a way as to help provide direction to subsequent activity in the others through a feedback system.

Certain specialized equipment and supplies should probably be stockpiled by an appropriate international authority (as the Group of