

C109(A83)

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Proposal Abstract C109(A83)

1. Arms Control Problem:

- Chemical weapons - stockpiling
- production
- destruction of stocks
- use

2. Verification Type:

- (a) On-site inspection - selective
- (b) International exchange of information

3. Source:

Murray, Blair L. Chemical Weapons Arms Control: Prospects for Disarmament. In Compliance and Confirmation: Political and Technical Problems in the Verification of Arms Control of Chemical Weapons and Outer Space, pp. 50-52. Edited by H. von Riekhoff. Ottawa: Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University, 1986.\*

4. Summary:

This article traces the 1970s efforts to formulate a bilateral arms control agreement restricting the production and use of chemical weapons. Talks were initiated in 1977 and a number of issues were tentatively resolved. The United States and the Soviet Union had agreed to the scope of an agreement, the criteria for determining those categories of weapons which were to be restricted, and provisions regarding the acquisition and sale of chemical weapons. The substance of this agreement actually provided for complete disarmament in chemical weapons. The substance of this agreement actually provided for complete disarmament in chemical weapons, and was remarkable in that provisions were made for verified disarmament; "Of greatest precedential significance for arms control was the agreement that countries would ... destroy stocks of existing chemical weapons and verifying that destruction" (p.3).

Progress was halted in 1978, however, as the two sides were unable to find a mutually acceptable means of verifying the agreement. While both had agreed in principle to the use of national and international means of verification, the Soviet Union consistently rejected US proposals for on-site inspection, declarations of stockpiles and the exchange of information. The Soviet Union offered no realistic alternative to the proposals they had rejected. Bilateral negotiations were consequently stymied, and the US was accused of having obstructed progress in arms control with their insistence on adequate verification. Now the US has agreed to multilateral negotiations for a chemical weapons treaty. This may

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\* Proceedings of a conference held in 1983.