

There are already resources upon which the United Nations can draw to provide advice and assistance to parties concerning verification matters. Of greatest interest as a model is the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency which verifies compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty, among other agreements. Also relevant is the experience of the Secretary-General in investigating allegations of CW use. Finally, United Nations peacekeeping activities, while different in fundamental ways from verification, do involve operational aspects which are or could be relevant for verification (e.g., monitoring of troop levels).

#### 5. A Specific Proposal

It was clear from the discussions of the Disarmament Commission that the subject of verification is a complex one, involving detailed questions of policy, technology, law and cost. While the UNDC has concluded its consideration of the subject, this does not mean that the United Nations should forgo further examination of verification. On the contrary, there remains constructive work that can yet be done within the framework of the United Nations. Verification is and will remain a critical element in achieving progress in the arms control and disarmament process. Moreover, the importance of multilateral verification will undoubtedly increase in the future and the role which the United Nations could play warrants close examination.

At this stage, the avenue which seems most likely to advance international understanding of verification within the United Nations framework, as well as help develop an appropriate role for the Organization in this field, is an in-depth United Nations study by a Group of Experts. This approach has several potential advantages. First, experts would be able to bring to bear their knowledge and skills to address the subject matter in considerable detail. They would, in addition, be able to focus sufficient time on the relevant questions. This ability of a relatively small group of experts to focus on the subject should produce a thorough and useful study.

The report of the Group of Experts could become a key international document respecting the future activities of the United Nations in this area. The findings of the Group of Experts could form the basis for further action by the General Assembly or the Disarmament Commission, as appropriate.