



# Statements and Speeches

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## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF VERIFICATION IN THE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT PROCESS

Speech by Mr. D.S. McPhail, Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, Geneva, June 11, 1981

At the beginning of the 1981 session, I indicated my intention to speak on the subject of verification and its significance to the arms-control process, particularly as it relates to this Committee [on Disarmament].

It is appropriate to do so today because it is almost one year since the compendium of arms-control verification proposals (CD/99) was tabled. The compendium was followed by a second paper (CD/127) which served to quantify some of the research upon which the compendium was based. Today, I have the honour to submit to this Committee the third and final working paper which deals with the subject in a generic fashion. It is entitled *A conceptual working paper on arms-control verification*.

More importantly, however, it is appropriate to consider verification as this Committee resumes its work because if priorities are oriented properly, 1981 could prove to be one of the most productive sessions in many years. Leading up to the United Nations General Assembly's second special session on disarmament, this Committee's negotiations could prove influential by achieving progress in areas where the verification aspects of the problem have taken on a particular significance. There are two areas where positive action could be taken.

### Chemical weapons

In the Working Group on Chemical Weapons, there is an opportunity to explore verification at the top end of the spectrum. By that I mean that chemical weapons, which exist in great numbers and therefore constitute a real and present threat, must of consequence be subject to a high level of verification in such areas as non-production, facility dismantling and weapons destruction. The Canadian working paper on verification and control requirements tabled on March 26, 1981 (CD/167) provides an overview of the problem. While we are aware that there have been fears expressed concerning intrusiveness and the possibility of compromising civilian industrial secrets, our appreciation is that such inspections are possible without detriment to legitimate commercial sensitivities. This is the conclusion pointed to by the 1979 workshop conducted by the Federal Republic of Germany (in terms of non-production) and of the subsequent British workshop (from the standpoint of dismantling and destruction of facilities). Results were presented in documents CD/37 and CD/15 respectively. Working papers documenting the Canadian experience in destruction of existing agents support this line of reasoning as well.

This Committee has not really come to grips with the verification issue *vis-à-vis* chemical weapons. I suggest, therefore, that during the second period of concentration of the chemical weapons working group, this aspect be explored. Such work

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