

CHEMICAL WEAPONS

BASIC FACTS

- CANADA IS A PARTY TO THE 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL FOR THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE IN WAR OF ASPHYXIATING, POISONOUS OR OTHER GASES, AND OF BACTERIOLOGICAL METHODS OF WARFARE.
- NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE 1984, AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT (CD) ON REACHING A GLOBAL, COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFECTIVELY VERIFIABLE CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) CONVENTION.
- IN 1985, AUSTRALIA ORGANIZED A FIRST MEETING OF COUNTRIES TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NATIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO CURB CW PROLIFERATION AND, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, TO HARMONIZE THESE MEASURES.
- IN 1990, THE USA AND THE USSR SIGNED A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WHICH WILL REDUCE THEIR RESPECTIVE CW STOCKS TO A COMMON, LOW LEVEL OVER A 10-YEAR PERIOD.

CURRENT CONCERNS

- AS A RESULT OF THE GULF CRISIS, CONCERN HAS INCREASED OVER THE PROLIFERATION OF CW, INCLUDING THE POTENTIAL FOR ITS USE AGAINST CIVILIAN POPULATIONS.

PROGRAMME OF ACTION

- A COMMITMENT WILL BE SOUGHT FROM ALL CD MEMBER STATES TO CONCLUDE, BY THE END OF 1992, THE NEGOTIATION OF A GLOBAL AND COMPREHENSIVE CW CONVENTION, AT THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT IN GENEVA.
- WE WILL ADVOCATE AN EXPANSION OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUSTRALIA GROUP, AND ENHANCED NATIONAL ENFORCEMENT OF THE APPROACHES OF THE GROUP IN CONTROLLING THE EXPORT OF CHEMICALS WHICH COULD BE USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS.