

On 25 March 1986, in a plenary meeting of the CD, Canada called on all signatories of the 1925 Protocol, including both Iran and Iraq, to live up to their legal obligations. The Canadian delegate commented: "We resolutely condemn any action that has been or might be taken in breach of that agreement."¹¹ Canada also submitted two papers to the CD for consideration in the context of the negotiations: one addressed the unambiguous identification of chemical substances (nomenclature); the other concerned procedures for the investigation of allegations of the use of chemical weapons.

At the end of the 1986 spring session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, Western diplomats reported modest progress toward agreement on which commercial chemicals would be banned, and how verification of the destruction or dismantling of weapons plants would be handled. While the type of inspection needed to verify compliance was still in dispute, the Soviet Union indicated that they might agree to a compromise involving routine scheduled inspection, although they were more circumspect concerning inspection on demand.¹²

On 22 May 1986 the NATO Defence Planning Committee endorsed the production of new American binary chemical weapons. (see entry on NATO) A Department of External Affairs specialist on such weapons said that the modernization proposal "could actually reduce [American] chemical arsenals by as much as 50 per cent" and that storage of such weapons would be "considerably safer."¹³ The United States has said it will not go ahead with the new weapons if a treaty banning all chemical weapons can be successfully agreed upon, but, the United States argues that the production of these new

¹¹ Ibid., p.4.

¹² "Modest Progress Reported on Chemical Arms Ban" The New York Times, 27 April, 1986.

¹³ "Lethal Stocks will actually shrink, External Affairs Researcher says" The Globe and Mail, 23 May 1986.