

progress. Ambassador Shannon indicated that success had been achieved in resolving a number of problems and he listed some of the areas where progress had been made.³⁰

Ambassador Shannon said that Canada was particularly impressed by the progress made by the various working groups. He stated that the success of Working Group B on the crucial issue of the order of the destruction of chemical weapons may have been the most significant so far achieved. He described this problem as one of the most difficult issues facing the CD, and pointed out that although a solution was underway, there remained much work to be done in this area.

Referring to the progress of Working Group C in addressing the legal issues involved in the consideration of sanctions, amendments and settlement of disputes, Ambassador Shannon said that barely a year ago it might have seemed to a casual observer that these issues were intractable, but progress achieved had shown that solutions were possible.

Ambassador Shannon also noted the progress achieved by Working Group A concerning the work on the Protocol on Inspection Procedures, and particularly the issue of procedures for the investigation of the alleged use of chemical weapons. In this respect, Canada's representative noted the distribution of a report prepared by the Verification Research Unit of External Affairs and International Trade Canada entitled, "Verification Methods, Handling and Assessments of Unusual Events in Relation to Allegations on the Use of Novel Chemical Warfare Agents." He also noted the work that Working Group A had recently begun on the question of Ad Hoc Verification. The Ambassador stated:

After careful consideration of the various approaches and proposals in this area, my government has come to the conclusion that the concept of Ad Hoc Verification must be an essential part of the structure that we are trying to develop to ensure the effective verification of the Convention. In our view, Ad Hoc Verification offers the most satisfactory means short of Challenge Inspection of ensuring that facilities relevant to the goal of the Convention are subject to appropriate verification.³¹

Ambassador Shannon concluded by stating:

In highlighting some of the achievements to date in the 1990 Session, I have been very conscious of the need to slight neither the other encouraging developments that have taken place nor the magnitude of the tasks that remain. My primary purpose in addressing these particular items has been to suggest that the momentum of 1989 is being continued and we are making considerable progress toward our ultimate goal.... I should, perhaps, not need to add that my Government is fully committed to doing all that it can to assist in realizing our final goal.³²

³⁰ "Statement by Ambassador Gerald D. Shannon before the Conference on Disarmament, 24 April 1990." Geneva: Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations at Geneva.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² *Ibid.*