

The degree of realism of the NTI

5. In order to ensure the realistic and positive nature of the NTI, the following steps were taken:

(a) The facility to be inspected was notified of the time of the NTI only a short time before the start of the inspection;

(b) The inspection team was present at all times from the start of operation of the unit to be inspected until the information of the final product;

(c) The inspection team consulted the documents and records concerning the product under inspection in order to verify their consistency with the actual production.

Selection of the inspection team

6. The political, scientific and technical authorities were keen to make this trial a success. Therefore, it was essential that the inspection team should include a specialist in the chemical industries with practical experience in this field, the technical expert representing the Egyptian delegation during the drafting of the convention on chemical weapons, and a representative of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs familiar with this subject. It was necessary to seek the help of some of the facility's personnel especially for the conduct of analyses under the supervision and control of the inspection team.

Selection of the facility

7. A multi-purpose facility in a chemical company belonging to the Ministry of Industry was selected for the conduct of the NTI. This facility is used basically for the production of limited quantities of various chemical products not included among the substances listed in schedules [1] and [2].

8. A multi-purpose unit was chosen to ensure the monitoring of the production stages from the start of the production process until the formation of the final product.

Selection of the chemical substance

9. Sodium toluene sulphonate (STS) was selected, although this substance is not included among substances listed in the chemical schedules annexed to the convention. However, for purposes of inspection and verification, it was regarded as being among the substances included in the draft convention.

The confidentiality of the NTI

10. In order to ensure the confidentiality of the information and data provided by the company to be inspected, it was agreed that the following conditions would be observed:

(a) Confidential business documents and technical records and information would be consulted only at the premises of the facility;