

Those present were able to observe the main stages in the destruction of a chemical weapon, such as the opening of the munition casing, the evacuation of the chemical warfare agent into a reactor, the thermochemical reaction of the destruction of the agent, and the thermal decomposition of the products of the decontamination. Work with actual chemical warfare agents was confirmed by biological experiments on animals.

In the course of the demonstration of the chemical weapon destruction technology, methods of verifying the completeness of destruction of CW agents were extensively presented, as were safety measures.

Since the technology for the destruction of chemical weapons at a mobile unit requires the use of personal protective equipment, those members of delegations who wished to acquaint themselves with the destruction process in greater detail were provided with such equipment in accordance with the safety regulations, and the equipment underwent technical testing. The time for which the equipment was worn depended on each individual's wish to observe the process of chemical weapon destruction directly. In this regard, instructions were provided on the rules for the use of protective equipment (text attached).

The members of delegations and reporters attending the presentation were able to film and take photographs as well as to make sound recordings on all the routes covered and throughout the visit.

Following the presentation of the standard chemical munitions, a briefing was held on board the Yuri Andropov, at which a speech was made by Lieutenant-General A.D. Kuntsevich, a leading expert from the USSR Ministry of Defence and the USSR Academy of Sciences. In the course of the briefing, Ambassador Y.K. Nazarkin, the Soviet representative to the Conference on Disarmament, Lieutenant-General Kuntsevich, and Major-General R.F. Razuvanov, Commander of the Shikhany military facility, answered numerous questions relating to the presentation.

On 5 October, a press conference on the results of the foreign representatives' visit to the Shikhany military facility was held in Moscow, at the press centre of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Participating in it were: Colonel-General V.K. Pikalov, Commander of the Chemical Warfare Troops of the USSR Ministry of Defence; Ambassador V.P. Karpov, Head of the Arms Limitation and Disarmament Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Y.K. Nazarkin, USSR representative to the Conference on Disarmament; Ambassador Rolf Ekéus, Chairman of the Conference on Disarmament's Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons and head of the Swedish delegation; Lieutenant-General A.D. Kuntsevich, a leading expert in the USSR Ministry of Defence and the USSR Academy of Sciences; and Ambassador G.I. Gerasimov, head of the Information Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The press conference was attended by over 350 people, including 80 foreign correspondents.

It was addressed by Colonel-General V.K. Pikalov, Commander of the Chemical Warfare Troops of the USSR Ministry of Defence.