

POLAND

Some of the issues to be dealt with in the negotiation
on a CW convention: working paper

The Committee on Disarmament, seeking to facilitate its work in the area of the prohibition of chemical weapons, has established the ad hoc working group with a mandate which instructed it "to define, through substantive examination, issues to be dealt with in the negotiation on such a convention", naturally, with due account taken of all existing proposals.

Among the major issues which have so far emerged from such an examination are the following:

Character of a ban

In the view of the Polish delegation a CW convention, in accordance with the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, should provide for the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and for their destruction. Such comprehensive ban should be universal and verifiable.

Scope of a ban

The ban should cover the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention and transfer - on the basis of single purpose criterion and additional toxicity criteria - of super toxic lethal, other lethal and other harmful CW agents and their precursors. It should also cover assistance or encouragement to acquire CW agents.

The ban should also cover binary weapons.

Exempt from the ban should be CW agents intended for civilian or nonhostile military purposes of agreed types and in agreed quantities.

Exempt from the ban, moreover, should be such dual purpose CW agents as are demonstrably destined for nonhostile use.

Approach to the question of use of CW

It is felt that any restatement in a CW convention of the ban of use of CW would be inappropriate since it would objectively tend to undermine and detract from the 1925 Geneva Protocol, thus putting into question the continued effectiveness of that instrument. As it is known, such restatement of the ban of use has not been incorporated in the Convention on the Prohibition of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons.