

Dr. Schiefer's report is based on the results of a two-week visit to Thailand in February where he held discussions with Thai government authorities, Thai scientists, and Canadian Embassy officials, in addition to visiting refugee camps on the Laotian and Cambodian borders with Thailand, where he collected control samples and conducted interviews with victims of alleged attacks. His report concludes that events which are reported to have taken place at the time of alleged chemical weapons attacks cannot be explained on the basis of naturally occurring phenomena. Neither mycotoxins nor diseases naturally occurring in Southeast Asia can explain the reported symptoms of victims of the alleged chemical weapons attacks. The symptoms described, however, are consistent with tricothecene mycotoxicosis. The UN Experts' Group is to report to the General Assembly in the fall and it is hoped that Dr. Schiefer's report will provide a valuable scientific contribution to its work. In particular, Dr. Schiefer's report should serve to answer the many scientific questions that have been posed, particularly by the Soviet Union, regarding the natural occurrence of mycotoxins in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Schiefer's report, in its final conclusion, identifies an urgent need to improve the verification and control procedures for chemical and/or biological weapons in order to determine if they are being used in Southeast Asia. Canada fully supports the conclusions of Dr. Schiefer's report. Canada intends to continue to make submissions to the United Nations.