

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In December 1985, Canada submitted to the United Nations Secretary-General a Handbook for the Investigation of Allegations of the Use of Chemical or Biological Weapons. The Handbook drew upon Canadian experience acquired during the previous four years in relation to efforts to investigate certain disturbing refugee reports and, subsequently, allegations concerning the use of chemical/toxin weapons in Southeast Asia. Early Canadian efforts occurred in the context of broadening international concern as reflected, notably, in General Assembly Resolution 35/144C.

In fact, the Handbook was but one of a number of submissions made by Canada to the United Nations relating to allegations of the use of chemical/toxin weapons. Canadian investigations in Southeast Asia in 1981 and 1982 led to the submission of information that had been collected by Canadian officials and visiting scientists (who, however, did not have access to the actual countries and sites of the alleged use of the weapons).

In February 1984, a critical review panel of experts representing a variety of disciplines was convened in Ottawa to evaluate Canadian investigative experience for its possible relevance to efforts initiated by the United Nations and still underway at the time. The panel recommended that the methodologies and procedures, developed in part on an ad hoc basis under field conditions, be reviewed, refined and documented for the benefit of the United Nations and other