

CANADA

Organization and Control of Verification
Within a Chemical Weapons Convention

Chemical weapons would be quite useful for warfare under many circumstances and it is necessary that adequate verification measures be available and that international control of these measures be sufficient to ensure the security of all States. It has often been suggested and in fact agreed, as it appears in the 1970 joint report from the United States of America and USSR, that a Consultative Committee supported by a secretariat should be available to monitor verification and compliance.

Due to the complex nature of chemical weapons, the numbers of toxic chemicals which are suitable for this role, and the variety of activities which must be monitored, it is unlikely that a Consultative Committee alone will adequately provide this service and the nature of its supporting elements requires further definition.

For example, one could contemplate the establishment of an international verification control agency for this purpose. It would be directed by an executive officer such as a Director General, and would contain a secretariat to provide for co-ordination of the necessary services and dissemination of information. It could also include inspection teams and other technical personnel to provide for the processing of economic information and various scientific data including the analysis of chemical samples. The agency would report to the Consultative Committee as well as to the United Nations. The Consultative Committee would meet regularly to review events and at other times in response to a challenge or other request by one or more signatory States.

Each Member State would be expected, as it has been suggested, to establish a national verification agency as well, to review national activities under the treaty and to report results and provide technical and other verification information to the international agency. It would also act as contacts and hosts for any international inspection teams which were required to enter the country and it would provide candidates for the international secretariat and its technical staff.

The monitoring of national activities such as stockpile destruction, agent production plant demolition, research and development activities for peaceful and defensive purposes, the non-transfer of agents, information and weapons to other nations, and eventually the non-production of new chemical weapons will require some on-site inspection. National agencies would have a role in carrying out this control but this should be done in conjunction with international arrangements, particularly at critical phases of some activities and in challenge situations.

National Agency