

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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TRIAL INSPECTION OF A SCHEDULE 3/ "OTHER RELEVANT" FACILITY

Introduction

It has been accepted since the late 1960's that some parts of the civil chemical industry will have to be monitored under the provisions of a Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), to provide the necessary confidence that chemical industry is not involved in the clandestine production of chemical weapons. In particular, the verification of "Non-Production" of chemical weapons in the civilian chemical industry has been a particular focus of attention.

In Appendix I of the current Rolling Text (CD/1116), there are provisions for on-site inspections of those parts of chemical industry that produce, process or consume chemicals in Schedule 2 (above a specified threshold). Discussions concerning the elaboration of provisions to monitor facilities that produce, process or consume Schedule 3 chemicals are continuing, and indeed have been the focus of much of the work undertaken in Working Group B in 1991.

Within the civil chemical industry, there are many facilities that are not involved in the production, processing or consumption of any of the chemicals in Schedules 1, 2 or 3, and hence not declared under the current provisions of the CWC, that would be capable of producing at least some of those chemicals. In 1991, work was undertaken in developing provisions for routine on-site inspections of these "CW-capable" or "Other Relevant" facilities, and the results of this are contained in Appendix 2 to the current Rolling Text. As well, two recent Working Papers, one By Sweden (CD/1053) and one by a group of eight nations (Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan and Yugoslavia) (CD/348) have offered suggestions on the possible form of on-site inspections at short notice for Schedule 3 and "Other Relevant" facilities.

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