

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to use information freely available in the open literature and attempt to provide a costing of the various verification activities required by the draft Chemical Weapons Convention and also for those other verification modalities currently under discussion at the Conference on Disarmament.

It is not yet possible to provide a precise estimate since there are many unknown parameters such as the number of CW stockpiles and production facilities, the number of industrial sites liable to inspection and the potential number and nature of challenge inspections. The same is true of the current debate on various Ad Hoc verification measures. Nevertheless there is sufficient data to develop a proximate model that, even though inexact, would provide a basis for further discussion.

The process involved estimating the number of sites that would require inspection, the number of inspectors required, the number of days an inspection would take and the number of days that any inspector could be expected to be on the road. This, together with an estimate of the cost of keeping an inspector in the field, can be used to develop costs for each inspection activity and hence a cumulative cost for the inspectorate on an annual basis.

On the basis of the above considerations and corresponding assumptions, it appears that in the order of 600 inspectors would be required and that the organization would cost about 120 million dollars per year, with about half of the costs being related to the monitoring of the destruction of chemical weapons and production facilities.

It will be clear that these estimates might need to be revised in view of early destruction by the USA and USSR of some quantity of their CW respective stockpiles even prior to entry into force of a global Chemical Weapons Convention. Similarly, it will be seen that estimates of USA and USSR stockpiles were based on information in the public domain prior to May 1990.

Since the analysis is based on a modular process, it should be comparatively straight forward to amend both the numbers and costs as more reliable data becomes available.