

chemical weapons destruction period.⁹ Mr. Marchand added that Canada at present was devoting a major research effort in the area of an international inspectorate and the related national authority for the Convention.¹⁰

The Ambassador discussed other outstanding issues concerning the provisions of a chemical weapons ban. Canada, he stated, believed that a chemical weapons convention need not include provisions of extraterritoriality regarding chemical industries.¹¹ Mr. Marchand expressed support for the concept of multilateral exercises for the development and testing of procedures for inspecting chemical industry facilities. However, he referred to preliminary surveys of the chemical industry in Canada indicating that, depending upon the thresholds ultimately to be agreed, Canada might not possess any commercial facilities subject to routine inspection under the convention.¹²

Finally, Mr. Marchand remarked that, while it was for any chemical weapons convention to ensure that the information required for its effective implementation was provided by the chemical industry, parties must take due account of the latter's legitimate concern for the protection of commercially sensitive data. The Ambassador called for closer examination of the actual ways in which such information could be protected, noting that Canada was currently considering various approaches and hoped to present further views on the subject in future discussions.¹³

On 18 October 1988, the Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, Yves Fortier addressed the First Committee of the General Assembly on the issue of a chemical weapons ban:

For many, including the Canadian Government, the progress in these negotiations must seem frustratingly slow. But in our judgement, this is not because of a lack of serious effort and intent on the part of participants in the negotiations. Rather it reflects the genuinely difficult technical and legal issues involved, particularly in relation to various aspects of the verification provisions of the treaty under negotiation.¹⁴

The verification of a Chemical Weapons Convention was the topic of a conference hosted by the Strategic Studies Programme of the University of Calgary on 21 to 24 October 1988. Sponsored by the Verification Research Programme of the Department of External Affairs, the conference drew together a small number of experts from the US, the UK, West Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Canada to consider the lessons that might be learned from the operation of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) safeguard systems for the verification of a chemical weapons ban. In general, it was

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 17.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 18.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Ibid.*, p. 19.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ Department of External Affairs, *Communiqué* No. 42, 18 October 1988, p. 5.