

C117(A85)

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Proposal Abstract C117(A85)

1. **Arms Control Problem:**
Chemical weapons - use
2. **Verification Type:**
On-site inspection - selective
3. **Source:**
Sutherland, R.G. "The Bhopal Catastrophe - Lessons To Be Learned Concerning Investigations of the Use of Chemical Weapons". In: Highly Toxic Chemicals: Detection and Protection Methods; Proceedings of a Symposium, pp. 155-165. Edited by H.B. Schiefer. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan: Toxicology Research Centre, University of Saskatchewan.

4. Summary

The paper examines whether the Bhopal (India) incident of 2 December 1984 can help in the development of procedures for verifying allegations of use of chemical weapons as well as the ways in which disasters involving highly toxic chemicals may be dealt with by international agencies. The author first compares and contrasts Bhopal with incidents where CWs were allegedly used (in particular South East Asia and Iran/Iraq). He then outlines some of the international debate on the verification of CW use.

The author next discusses the basic similarities between a CW incident and an accidental release of a toxic chemical. He concludes that the procedures and requirements for investigation for both events are similar. Moreover, any international organization dealing with the control of CWs and with links to national organizations with a similar mandate would be "in an ideal position to render assistance to victims of a toxic chemical release" (p.163) even if only through a databank on toxic chemicals and antidotes.