

Technical Report

Theme: "Trial inspection" in accordance with document CD/831

(Special report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons to the Conference on Disarmament)

01. Introduction

Among the several mechanisms under consideration for the control of the production of chemical weapons are included periodical inspections of installations capable of producing chemical weapons or their precursors.

Considering the great difficulty of such inspections with regard to civilian industry, mainly due to the confidentiality of technical and commercial informations involved, it was decided that the trial inspections should be carried out with the aim of permitting an evaluation of the actual level of the difficulties involved.

The present report broaches on the inspection in Brazil of a facility which, although not producing chemical substances under the dispositions of the International Convention, entails sufficient similarities to allow for a reasonable simulation of the intended situation and the visualization of the problems involved in such inspections.

The facility in question, owned by Química da Bahia S.A., is located at the Camaçari Petrochemical Complex. It is a multipurpose plant, operating on a batch system, to produce amines used as intermediate in the manufacture of pesticides, pharmaceutical and synthetic rubbers.

A team of inspectors was provided by COPENE - Petroquímica do Nordeste S.A., another company in the Camaçari Complex, constituted by a chemical engineer (co-ordinator), a process engineer, two mechanical engineers, an electronic engineer (instrumentation) and an analytical chemist.

The collection of information was aimed at allowing the inspectors to make a material balance during the inspection period, as well as one during the total period of the MIPA production run. The material balances, in addition to the chemical analysis of some selected samples, plus the examination of the safety regulations, should have been sufficient to achieve the three final objectives of the inspection.

02. Objectives

To carry out a "Simulated Inspection" at the QUIMICA DA BAHIA S.A. during the process of production of MIPA: (Monoisopropylamine) on the basis of the following premises:

- . Considering: That although MIPA does not possess the properties required for its being assigned to the lists of controlled products,