

bodily-fluid samples for subsequent analysis; experience with problems related to chemical defence; and experience in anthropology and in devising and administering questionnaires.

As the United Nations Group of Consultant Experts indicated in its final report, there is a "continuous accumulation of knowledge in this field" such that any handbook or set of procedures will have to be improved and updated in keeping with technological and other developments. Nevertheless, such a handbook is both useful today in the context of the existing authority of the Secretary-General under resolution 37/98D or under the Charter of the United Nations; and it should also be of use in the future in the context of a verification regime that would likely be part of a future chemical weapons convention as it is currently being negotiated in the Conference on Disarmament. In the latter instance, we might see the establishment of an international secretariat which would bring together the necessary expertise and materiel support in a standing organ of the convention. In such circumstances, we would expect the technical section of the secretariat (which will be identified subsequently as the "technical secretariat") to make significant strides in improving upon any existing procedures, at least partially as the result of any declassification by States Parties of technical documentation which would be of assistance in the verification of the convention. In the meantime, however, we move hesitantly toward effective procedures drawing on information from unclassified sources and upon whatever related experience one can find. It is in this vein that Canada is submitting the report of this study to the United Nations.