

into force; and a list of Schedule 2 chemicals (and their quantities) maintained as precursors for Schedule 1 chemical synthesis.

The inspection was conducted by a team of inspectors drawn from various federal government departments, including EAITC, the Department of National Defence, Agriculture Canada, and Industry, Science and Technology Canada. Five members of the team were scientists with backgrounds and experience in the chemical field. There was also a representative from the Canadian chemical industry.

The inspection successfully demonstrated the feasibility of carrying out routine verification inspections at an SSSF preparing Schedule 1 chemicals for protective purposes without compromising sensitive or secure facilities, equipment or operations. All aims of the trial were achieved, although some difficulty was encountered in adapting the SSSF model to a research laboratory site such as that found at DRES. The inspection was sufficiently realistic to test the practicality of the inspection procedures already contained in the draft CWC, and the results provided excellent guidance for their further negotiation. A number of recommendations pertaining to improvements in the inspection procedures, as well as a detailed description of the Canadian

trial inspection, were presented to the CD in April 1990 under the cover of CD document 987 (CD/CW/WP.290).

Inspection of a Pharmaceutical Facility

In July 1990, Merck Frosst Canada Inc. of Pointe-Claire, Quebec, received a team of inspectors whose ostensible task was to ensure that a certain chemical was not being diverted to the production of chemical weapons. In fact, this was a trial inspection, conducted with the cooperation of the company, and had little to do with a particular chemical. Rather, the purpose was to contribute to the development of procedures that could assist Canadian and international inspectors when a ban on chemical weapons enters into force.

Canada does not possess chemical weapons. Nonetheless, once a CWC enters into force, Canadian industry will be subject to reporting requirements on the disposition of certain chemicals that are used for legitimate commercial purposes. Canadian facilities will also be subject to inspection by the international inspectorate established under the Convention. These requirements reflect the concerns of CWC negotiators that certain chemicals, and certain chemical or pharmaceutical production facilities, could be diverted to covert production of chemical weapons, whether on a large or small (batch) scale.

July's Merck Frosst inspection attested to the cooperation that has developed since 1989 between the federal government and the Canadian

Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association and its members. Similar cooperation exists between the government and the Canadian Chemical Producers Association. Merck Frosst Vice-President Andy Quinn and his management staff spent the best part of two days receiving an inspection team made up of officials from EAITC (assisted by a consultant from the University of Saskatchewan), the Department of National Defence, Agriculture Canada, Environment Canada, the Bureau of Dangerous Drugs, and Industry, Science and Technology Canada. Also participating as an observer was an official from the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Such a range of expertise was considered essential because of the trial inspection's diverse objectives:

Merck Frosst inspectors confident that a Convention can be made to work without compromising commercial interests.

- to assess the value of using an audit trail of a (simulated) chemical of concern in order to verify compliance;
- to assess the impact of an audit trail inspection on confidential business information; and
- to investigate the use of quality control procedures and equipment as they might be required and available in support of such inspections.

The insights achieved as a result of the trial inspection have already been communicated to the CWC negotiators at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Everyone involved in the exercise — company management, government officials and scientists, and the foreign observer — agreed that the inspection was a challenging and informative experiment in the real world in which a CWC will have to operate. In particular, all came away with the belief that a Convention can be made to work without compromising the confidentiality of a company's commercial interests.



The trial inspection team with the management of Merck Frosst Canada Inc.