

Return travel arrangements with the samples and equipment were more difficult to arrange with the airline than was the case on the outward bound trip. With security and the chain of custody being foremost on the team's mind, it was hoped the airline would allow the coolers inside the passenger compartment of the aircraft and, thus, remain with the escort throughout. For its part, the airline wanted the coolers sent as air freight with "special" handling instructions, at considerable cost. This was clearly not satisfactory. Through the fortuitous and very welcome intervention of an airline employee, special ground handling arrangements were made and the coolers were placed in the aircraft's diplomatic locker under lock and key. The airline made similar arrangements for handling at the transfer point, which was confirmed by the escort. No excess baggage charge was levied.

2.7.3 Safety and Security

The special handling arrangements for the coolers did not facilitate verification of the status of the cooler ice packs at the international transit point. However, the lapsed travel time was but a small fraction of the safety margin determined during pre-trip testing, and so this change in procedure was not a cause for concern. Upon entry into Canada, the ice packs were verified by the escort and, after