

Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar with a 174-page Handbook for the Investigation of Allegations of the Use of Chemical or Biological Weapons, which sets out detailed operational methods for an effective, impartial, on-site investigation into allegations of use of such weapons.⁷ An accompanying letter from Mr. Clark expressed full support for past initiatives in investigating allegations of use of chemical weapons and noted previous Canadian contributions to this field.

Chemical weapons were the main issue in three resolutions tabled at the UN General Assembly in the fall of 1985. Canada sponsored resolution 40/92B, which expressed "regret and concern" that a chemical and bacteriological (biological) prohibition had not been agreed upon and urged the CD "to intensify ...and reinforce further its efforts", and spend more time on the negotiations. Canada abstained on resolution 40/92A (sponsored by the Eastern Bloc) which urged the CD "to intensify the negotiations...and...the drafting process" in order to submit the convention to the General Assembly in 1986. The resolution also called upon all states "to refrain from the production and deployment of binary and other new types of chemical weapons, as well as from stationing chemical weapons on the territory of other states." Of the NATO Allies, thirteen opposed this resolution, while Denmark and Greece joined Canada in abstaining. (In 1985, the American Congress had voted to fund the modernization of American chemical weapons if the NATO allies agreed to the new binary weapons.) Canada and the NATO Allies all voted in favour of resolution 40/92C, which noted with concern reports of chemical weapon use and proliferation, and condemned all contravention of existing prohibitions against chemical and biological weapons. The Soviet Union voted against this resolution.

In his first address to the CD in 1986, Ambassador Beesley spoke of "known instances of recent chemical weapons use" and urged collective action for swift success in attaining a treaty. Confirmed use in 1984 and 1985, the

⁷ DEA Press Release no. 185, 4 December 1985.