

THE NETHERLANDS

Working Document

Draft Initial Work Programme of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons

It is suggested that the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons might proceed as follows in the initial phases of its work:

- (step 1) Examine working paper CD/41 of 25 July 1979, containing questions relevant to a Convention prohibiting Chemical Weapons and, on the basis thereof as well as of any other relevant material available, draw up an official Questionnaire of the CD on Chemical Weapons.
- (step 2) As soon as this is accomplished, the Working Group should report this draft CD-Chemical Weapons Questionnaire to the Plenary for adoption and appropriate action, hopefully well before the end of the 1980 Spring Session.
- (step 3) The CD-Plenary should take a formal decision bringing this CD-Chemical Weapons Questionnaire to the attention of Member Governments requesting those who wish to do so to submit their views on the questionnaire, preferably in a uniform manner, to the Secretariat of the CD before a certain date, e.g. the beginning of the Summer session of the CD.
- (step 4) During the Summer session the Working Group, with the aid of the Secretariat and of qualified experts from capitals, should examine the answers received and draw up a report composed of the following four sections:
  - (a) the official CD-Chemical Weapons Questionnaire;
  - (b) a systematic compilation of the answers received;
  - (c) an analysis of or a commentary on those answers;
  - (d) an objective, factual, narrative account of the discussions that took place in the Working Group. x/

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x/ Working paper CD/52 of 13 August 1979, containing an "Evaluation of the discussion in the Committee on Disarmament in 1979 with respect to a prohibition of chemical weapons" (France, Italy and the Netherlands) could serve as a model.

- (step 5) The report of the Working Group composed of abovementioned four documents together would form (the beginning of) an outline of the Convention, thus laying the basis for further work next year.
- (step 6) In order to ensure that the work mentioned above under (1) can be accomplished with maximum efficiency it is desirable that a certain period of e.g. 2 - 3 weeks during the Summer session be agreed upon well in advance, so that experts from capitals can be available during that designated period.