

CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

CCD/PV.674  
22 July 1975  
ENGLISH

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FINAL RECORD OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FOURTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Tuesday, 22 July 1975, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. C.W. van der Klaauw (The Netherlands)

## PRESENT AT THE TABLE

<u>Argentina:</u>	Mr. V.E. BERASATEGUI
<u>Brazil:</u>	Mr. M.T. DA SILVA Mr. L. PEREIRA DA FONSECA
<u>Bulgaria:</u>	Mr. R. NIKOLOV Mr. B. GRINBERG
<u>Burma:</u>	U NYUNT MAUNG SHEIN
<u>Canada:</u>	Mr. A.D. ROWE
<u>Czechoslovakia:</u>	Mr. V. SOJAK
<u>Egypt:</u>	Mr. A. OSMAN Mr. N. ELARABY
<u>Ethiopia:</u>	Mr. W. BERHANU Mr. G. DEMISSIE
<u>German Democratic Republic:</u>	Mr. G. HERDER Mr. H.-J. MICHEEL Mr. M. GRACZYNSKI Mr. H. THIELICKE Mr. M. SCHNEIDER
<u>Germany, Federal Republic of:</u>	Mr. G.J. SCHLAICH Mr. J. BAUCH Mr. K. HANNESSCHLÄGER
<u>Hungary:</u>	Mr. D. MEISZTER Mr. I. KORMENDY
<u>India:</u>	Mr. B.C. MISHRA Mr. P.R. SOOD

Iran:

Mr. M. FARTASH  
Miss C. TAHMASSEB  
Mr. D. CHILATY

Italy:

Mr. G. VALDEVIT  
Mr. A. BIZZARINI  
Mr. G. SCHIAVONI

Japan:

Mr. M. NISIBORI  
Mr. A. YATABE  
Mr. H. OKA

Mexico:

Miss A. CABRERA  
Mr. M. CÁCERES

Mongolia:

Mr. M. DUGERSUREN

Morocco:

Mr. A. SKALLI  
Mr. S. RAHHALI

Netherlands:

Mr. C.A. van der KLAAUW  
Mr. A.J. MEERBURG

Nigeria:

Mr. M. SAMAKI

Pakistan:

Mr. K. SALEEM

Peru:

Mr. L. CHÁVEZ-GODOY  
Mr. G. CHAUNY

Poland:

Mr. T. FIECKO  
Mr. A. CZERKAWSKI

Romania:

Mr. V. TUDOR  
Mr. M. ROSIANU

Sweden:

Mrs. I. THORSSON  
Mr. G. HAMILTON  
Mr. J. LUNDIN  
Mr. U. REINIUS

Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics:

Mr. A.A. ROSHCIN  
Mr. Y.K. NAZARKIN  
Mr. N.V. PESTEREV  
Mr. L.N. ANISIMOV

United Kingdom:

Mr. M. ALLEN  
Mr. A. WHITE  
Mr. C. McCOLL

United States of America:

Mr. W. GIVAN  
Mr. J.S. COTTMAN  
Mr. D. WESTERVELT  
Mr. M. CHRISTOPHER  
Mr. W. GRAYSON  
Mr. C. WILMOT

Yugoslavia:

Mr. M. LALOVIC  
Mr. M. MIHAJLOVIC  
Mr. D. DJOKIC

Zaire:

Acting Representative of the  
Secretary-General:

Mr. R. BJÖRNERSTEDT

Communiqué of the meeting

The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament today held its 674th plenary meeting in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador C.A. van der Klaauw, representative of the Netherlands.

A statement was made by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany submitted a "Working paper on the definition and classification of chemical warfare agents" (CCD/458).

The next meeting of the Conference will be held on Thursday, 24 July 1975, at 10.30 a.m.

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Mr. SCHLAICH (Federal Republic of Germany): The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany today presents to the CCD a working paper on the definition and classification of chemical warfare agents.

In this context I should like to make the following observations:

The Federal Republic of Germany has stated on various occasions that it is strongly interested in a ban on chemical warfare agents, which should be as comprehensive and effective as possible. It has moreover indicated that it would not rule out any useful partial solutions achieved in the context of a step-by-step approach. As regards the Federal Republic's general position in this matter I would refer to my statement of 8 April 1975 (CCD/PV.664, pp. 9-10).

The still unresolved problems mainly relate to the definition of agents to be banned, and to ways and means of verification. It would seem expedient first to clarify the question of what chemical warfare agents are and how they can be precisely defined as against other toxic substances.

The proposal before you was drafted by a Working Group in Bonn which has been able to draw on valuable suggestions from numerous countries here represented. None of the basic principles of the paper are new, but what would seem to be new is their combination and the system derived therefrom.

The working paper does not answer the question which substances should be banned. In fact, its purpose is to present for discussion a method making it possible to determine by a largely quantified and thus relatively objective procedure whether or not a substance is suitable for use as a chemical warfare agent. To that end, toxicity has been chosen as the primary criterion. We have thought it necessary, however, to introduce several categories of toxicity so as to take into account the different effects produced by chemical warfare agents.

In CCD discussions, it has repeatedly been pointed out that toxicity alone is not sufficient to determine the suitability of a substance for use as a warfare agent and that, in fact, a substance must have other properties as well to qualify for military use. We have taken up this idea and have chosen five criteria which we believe to be particularly characteristic for indicating the military suitability of a chemical substance. These criteria have been quantified and combined with toxicity data through a simple mathematical operation. In this way we finally get an evaluation number allowing us to classify potential warfare agents.

(Mr. Schlaich, Federal Republic of Germany)

The secondary criteria used in the working paper have been chosen on the principle of keeping their number as small as possible. It would easily be possible to apply further criteria or to differentiate certain criteria, for instance as regards the boiling point in the case of a chemical substance which could be used either as a volatile or a persistent warfare agent. All figures, including threshold values, interval limits and ratings, are given as examples. They are variable and could be internationally agreed, should the procedure meet with approval.

Since the Federal Republic of Germany is concerned exclusively with defence issues in the field of chemical warfare agents -- as is known, we undertook in 1954 not to manufacture chemical weapons, which is an obligation with binding international effect -- we have been able to include in our working paper only such data for warfare agents as are accessible to us in literature. This is also the reason why we could not deal with the definition of binary chemical weapons.

In order to keep clear the method presented for discussion, we have not gone into the problems of phytotoxic substances and incapacitants.

For the time being, in any case, the proposals for a step-by-step approach leave these substances out of account.

The difficult problems arising in connexion with dual purpose agents ultimately lie in the verification sector, a view which appears to be shared by other delegations. The method suggested in our paper makes it possible, however, to reduce the problem of the dual purpose agents at least in numerical terms, because the application of the suggested secondary criteria and their processing by a mathematical operation eliminates the large number of toxic substances whose suitability for military use is insufficient.

The procedure envisaged by us is flexible and adaptable to the joint initiative with respect to the "most dangerous, lethal means of chemical warfare", as considered by the world Powers, as well as to a more comprehensive approach. It is neutral as far as its purpose is concerned. Of course, we would not claim that it represents a perfect solution. But perhaps the ideas put forward in this working paper may, after thorough examination by the experts, stimulate our discussion, so that eventually we shall be able to make progress towards the ban on chemical weapons which is our aim. This would also be desirable in view of the mandate we were given by last year's United Nations General Assembly -- namely, to make the ban on chemical weapons a high priority subject.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

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