

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING PAPER

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FACT SHEET: CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW)

I. NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CW TREATY

- o In April 1984, Vice President Bush tabled at Conference on Disarmament (CD) a US draft treaty calling for a total ban of CW; that draft remains basis for negotiations.
- o Soviets have recently assumed more constructive attitude in the CD and made substantive contributions on technical aspects; they continue to press for intensification of negotiations and early completion of global ban.
- o US and UK share commitment to negotiation of comprehensive, effectively verifiable and truly global CW ban.
- o US and UK will continue to work to resolve remaining issues while recognizing solutions are not immediately apparent.

II. CW USE AND PROLIFERATION

- o UK joined US in condemnation of CW use in Gulf War and by Iraqis against Kurdish dissidents.
- o At UN, the UK has proposed automaticity for UNSYG investigations of CW use; we are studying UK proposal but see some impracticalities.
- o US seeks to complement efforts at CD to negotiate an effective global CW ban by trying to curb CW proliferation and illegal use.
- o UK participates with US and others in Australia Group, to harmonize export controls on commodities related to CW production.
- o UK has been very supportive of President's call for an international conference to focus world attention on CW proliferation and illegal use, and to reaffirm international political commitment to respect existing norms against use.
- o France, as depositary of 1925 Geneva Protocol, has agreed to host the conference in Paris in January 1989.

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Prime Minister Thatcher
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