

The image shows the cover of a spiral-bound notebook. The cover is a light beige or tan color with a fine, woven fabric texture. A silver metal spiral binding is visible along the left edge. The text is printed in a dark, serif font. The main title is centered and reads "Sea-dumped Chemical Weapons and the Chemical Weapons Convention". Below this, the event details are listed: "EASTLANT Coastal Maritime Operations Seminar" and "Riga, 17-19 October 2000". At the bottom right, the author's name and affiliation are given: "Dr Jean Pascal Zanders", "Chemical and Biological Weapon Project", and "SIPRI".

# Sea-dumped Chemical Weapons and the Chemical Weapons Convention

**EASTLANT Coastal Maritime Operations Seminar  
Riga, 17-19 October 2000**

**Dr Jean Pascal Zanders  
Chemical and Biological Weapon Project  
SIPRI**

# Chemical Weapons in the CWC

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- 3 categories of CW  
(Art. 2 of CWC)
  - Chemical weapons
  - Old chemical weapons
  - Abandoned chemical weapons



# Chemical weapons

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- Toxic chemicals and their precursors
- Specifically designed munitions and devices
- Any specifically designed equipment for use with the munitions and devices

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a brown cover and a light beige page. The spiral binding is on the left side. The page contains the title 'Old chemical weapons' and a bulleted list of two items.

# Old chemical weapons

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- CW produced before 1925
- CW produced between 1925 and 1946, which have been verified to be no longer usable



# Abandoned chemical weapons

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- CW abandoned by one *state* on the territory of another *state*
- After 1 January 1925
- Includes OCW

# Destruction of CW

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- CW: stringent destruction requirements according to treaty-specified timetables and under international supervision
- OCW:
  - < 1925: destroy as toxic waste after confirmation
  - 1925<>1946: detailed declarations; stringent destruction requirements (Art. IV), some flexibility possible
- ACW
  - Does not apply to < 1925
  - Bilateral resolution, if possible
  - Otherwise, help from OPCW



# Prohibited destruction methods

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- Dumping in any body of water
- Land burial
- Open-pit burning
  
- Otherwise, a state party determines how it will destroy CW

(CWC, Verification Annex, Part IV(A), C)



# Sea-dumped chemical weapons

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- No declarations required for CW dumped at sea before 1 January 1985
- No need to retrieve these CW
- Consequently, no need to destroy them



# Recovery of sea-dumped CW

- Recovered sea-dumped CW must be destroyed
- Determination of
  - OCW, produced before 1925
  - OCW, produced between 1925 and 1946
  - CW, produced after 1/1/1946
- Determination of ACW status for CW (>1/1/46) and OCW (25<>46)

# Some issues

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- Sea-dumped CW cannot be destroyed under water
- Can they be moved under water, without being ‘retrieved’, e.g., for purposes of destroying explosive munitions at same site?
- ACW status of recovered sea-dumped CW
- Host-nation support => OPCW determination
- Contact OPCW via National Authority