



HUN

DATUM
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Invitation

to the Workshop:

'Stockpile Destruction Management Training Course'

Thun near Berne, Switzerland, 11-15 June 2001

Mr. Chairman, dear colleagues

I would like to thank you for your time and attention. It is an honour for me to present Switzerland's concept for the Training Course in Stockpile Destruction Management which will take place in Thun near Berne from June 11th to 15th 2001. The course will be organised jointly by the General Staff of the Swiss Armed Forces and the Defence Procurement Agency of the Federal Department of Defence.

In my short expose I would like to give you some background information about the course. I will then outline our objectives and working methods. In conclusion, I will introduce the course staff and give you an overview of the programme.

1. Background

The destruction of APM is a core element of the Mine Ban Treaty, an obligation every state has to fulfil as a State Party of the Mine Ban Treaty. By optimally using the available military and industrial capacities and the experience of other states we cannot only facilitate the implementation of Article 4, but also encourage non signatory states to accelerate the ratification by reducing uncertainty of the fulfilment of stockpile destruction. As we all know, the major problem is the establishment of a national destruction programme, which includes the precise evaluations of the existing stocks and the mobilisation of national and international resources as main elements.

In the past, several states asked for international help. Also Switzerland was approached for specific support. On the basis of the discussion in the expert group and of our own experience, Switzerland informed at the second Annual Meeting in September that it will conduct a Training Course on Management of Stockpile Destruction. We are now pleased to announce this course today and to extend an invitation to all interested states.

2. Objectives

The course should enable the participants to improve the ability to manage national destruction programmes. In other words, managers of national destruction programmes will be trained to better assess the national situation and to work out adequate destruction options, to establish the technical evaluation of existing stocks, to elaborate standard procedures, to use existing national resources, to identify areas of international co-operation and to use the international experience available.

Therefore as I mentioned before, the goal of the course is to improve the capability of the expert in charge to manage a national destruction programme.



3. Working methods

Our objective is to structure the course in a practical way. As you can see in the programme, the curriculum includes lectures, case studies, discussions and practical training in working groups as well as demonstrations and visits to sites of interest. During the course, a model solution will be presented which can be later used by participant states on a one to one scale.

4. Teaching Staff

The course will be directed by Dr. Walker of the Defence Procurement Agency of the Federal Department of Defence. He will gladly answer any technical questions you may have after my expose. The different lectures and working groups will be conducted by Swiss Ammunition specialists, experts from the Swiss Defence Industry, staff members of the Geneva International Centre of Humanitarian Demining and experts of other states. We intend to integrate the know-how of the different participants into the course as well. Therefore we kindly request other states to share their experience with us. Based on a wide support and with your contributions we are sure this course will provide the participants with the necessary instruments for a successful management of the destruction of APM stockpiles.

5. Number of participants

The course in Thun will be open to a maximum of 20 countries. Each country can send two experts. If we receive applications of more than 20 countries, the course will be repeated at a later date.

I hope to have given you the information you require. Mr. Walker will be pleased to answer any questions you might have about the modalities of the course.

Thank you very much for your attention!