



OPCW

Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/229/2000

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ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**SWISS EMERGENCY FIELD LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAMME
(SEF-LAB IV), SPIEZ, SWITZERLAND, 13 - 18 MAY 2001**

1. On behalf of the Government of Switzerland and the OPCW, the Director-General wishes to invite Member States to nominate participants for an emergency field laboratory training course, which will be held at the NBC Training Centre in Spiez, Switzerland, from 13 to 18 May 2001.
2. The course, which is the fourth of its kind, is related to the offer made by Switzerland under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention in relation to assistance and protection against chemical weapons (CW), and will be jointly organised by the Government of Switzerland and the Secretariat. The course will provide training in civil CW detection and decontamination for up to 16 chief instructors from Member States.
3. The course will provide basic training for specialists and experts who are, or will be associated with CW detection training in their home countries. Its main purpose is to assist Member States in their efforts to establish a basic CW detection capability that will directly benefit the civilian population. During the course the participants will receive training in the use of the detection equipment included in the Swiss pledge of assistance under Article X. The course draws on the extensive experience of the laboratory specialists of the Swiss Armed Forces in the field of technical and personnel support to the civilian authorities. These specialists are equipped with CW detection equipment that can be used in the event of a CW emergency, providing a simple but reliable means of qualitative and semi-quantitative analysis of chemical agents in air, soil, water and food. This equipment could provide vital information under difficult circumstances without a power supply.
4. Due to the objective of the course and its technical nature, the candidates will be carefully selected by the Secretariat. Applicants from Member States which do not yet have civilian CW detection and analysis capabilities will be particularly welcome. Participants should have a basic technical (laboratory) and chemical background, as well as a reasonable command of English. They should also be physically fit and able to wear an individual protective mask for several hours during almost all the practical sessions in the laboratory. All necessary measures will be taken to ensure the security

of the participants during the laboratory sessions. Individual protective masks and laboratory overalls will be provided. Previous practical experience with military or civil CW protection would be desirable.

5. It is anticipated that participants will arrive on Saturday 12 May and depart on Saturday 19 May 2001. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Switzerland. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of candidates nominated by Member States, to cover their travel costs. When proposing candidates for the course, Member States should specify whether such sponsorship is a precondition for their participation. The course materials, as well as accommodation and all meals during the course, will be provided by the Swiss Government free of charge. Further details regarding accommodation, the course venue and transportation will be issued to participants at a later date.
6. Interested Member States are invited to complete the nomination form attached as annex 1 to this Note, giving the full name and address (including fax and telephone numbers, and e-mail address, if available) of each participant, together with his or her affiliation and area(s) of expertise. The completed nomination form, together with a brief biography of each nominee, should be submitted to the Assistance Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division (ICA), OPCW, as soon as possible, but not later than **28 February 2001**, to allow sufficient time for the Secretariat and the Swiss authorities to make the necessary arrangements. In the meantime, Member States are requested to inform the ICA of any administrative or other problems that may arise in relation to the attendance of any nominee.
7. A provisional schedule for the training course is attached as annex 2. Further details of the arrangements will be issued as soon as the ICA receives confirmation from the participants that they will be attending the course. Any questions in this regard may be addressed to the Assistance Branch, ICA:

Tel.: +31-(0)70 416 3555, 416 3217
Fax: +31-(0)70 306 3535
E-mail: EmergAssistBr@opcw.org

Annexes

Annex 1: Nomination form

Annex 2: Provisional schedule

Annex 1**Swiss Emergency Field Laboratory Training Programme (SEF-LAB IV),
Spiez, Switzerland, 13 - 18 May 2001****NOMINATION FORM**

To be completed by Member States to nominate participants.
Please use BLOCK LETTERS.

Details of nominee_

1. Family name
2. First name(s)
3. Gender (female/male)
4. Date of birth
5. Present address
-
6. Telephone
7. Fax
8. E-mail
9. Nationality
10. Passport no.
11. Date of issue
12. Date of expiry
13. Place of issue
14. Affiliation
15. Area(s) of expertise
16. Nominated by
17. Signed Date

Annex 2

Swiss Emergency Field Laboratory Training Programme (SEF-LAB IV), Spiez, Switzerland, 13 - 18 May 2001

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

Arrival: Saturday, 12 May 2001. Departure: Saturday, 19 May 2001. Training location: CA, course auditorium; Lab, Laboratory.

Practical laboratory sessions (Lab 1-7) will be preceded by short theoretical introductions in the auditorium (CA) (30 min). Coffee breaks (30 min) in the morning and in the afternoon

	Sunday, 13 May	Monday, 14 May	Tuesday, 15 May	Wednesday, 16 May	Thursday, 17 May	Friday, 18 May
07:30	09:00 Registration opens (for participants arriving on Sunday)	Keynote Address MG Ch. Josi - Photographer CA <hr/> Lab 1 (09:00): Put lab into operation (Laboratory organisation) AChE test	Lab 4: Detection of mustard/ nitrogen/Lewisite/CS/ CA chemical warfare agents by TLC	Lab 5: - Analysis of cyanide in water - Analysis with CA detecting device in water/ground	Lab 7: TEST Repetition Labs 1-6 Different samples	Lab 7 (continued): Discussion of results Test evaluation CA <hr/> 0845 Lab clean up <hr/> - AChE test <hr/> - Maintenance of NBC masks <hr/> - Return of IPE
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:30	14:00 - Administrative information	Detection of nerve agents by thin layer chromatography (TLC)	Excursion "Bernese Oberland"	Lab 6: Detection of arsenic chemical warfare agents by TLC - Merckoquant arsenic test - How to take samples	Lab 7 (continued)	Introduction to additional technologies and methods by NC Laboratory of Spiez 16:00 (NCLS)
15:30	- Introduction 15:00 - The OPCW and the CWC: Article X CWC	Lab 2: Detection of nerve agents by TLC in water				
17:30	17:00 The Chemical threat CA	Lab 3: Detection of nerve agents by TLC in different samples			17:00 Excursion "City of Berne"	17:15 Closing session
18:30	18:00 Handover of IPE					
	Dinner	Dinner		Dinner		Dinner
19:30	Prepare and adjust NBC masks <hr/> Air-tightness test	Military Support to the Civilian Authorities (Swiss MSCA) CA		- Maintenance of NBC masks - Individual Study CA		