



**OPCW**

**Technical Secretariat**

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International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/139/99

13 September 1999

ENGLISH only

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**SWISS EMERGENCY FIELD LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAMME  
(SEF-LAB I) SPIEZ, SWITZERLAND, 14 - 19 NOVEMBER 1999**

1. On behalf of the Government of Switzerland and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Director-General wishes to invite Member States of the OPCW to nominate participants for a training course on emergency field laboratories, which will be held in the NBC Training Centre in Spiez, Switzerland, from 14 to 19 November 1999.
2. The course, which is the first of this 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, and will be jointly organised by the Government of Switzerland and the OPCW Secretariat. The course will provide training in civil chemical weapons detection and decontamination for up to 16 chief instructors from Member States of the OPCW.
3. The course will provide basic training for specialists and experts who are, or who will be, associated with chemical weapons detection training in their Member States. Its main purpose is to assist other OPCW Member States in their efforts to establish a basic chemical weapons detection capability that will directly benefit the civilian population. The training will enable participants to properly use the detection equipment contained in the Swiss pledge pursuant to 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 chemical weapons detection equipment for the simple but reliable qualitative and semi-quantitative detection of chemical agents in air, soil, water and food in the case of a chemical weapons disaster. Under difficult circumstances this equipment provides information when there is no power supply.
4. Due to the objective of the course and its technical nature, the candidates will be carefully selected by the OPCW. Applicants from Member States which do not yet have civilian chemical weapons detection and analysis capabilities will be particularly welcome. Participants should have a basic technical (laboratory) and chemical background, as well as a good command of spoken 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. Everything that is possible will be done to guarantee their safety while they are working in the laboratory. Individual protective masks and laboratory overalls will be provided. Practical experience of military or civil chemical weapons protection would be useful.

5. It is anticipated that participants will arrive on Saturday 13 November 1999, and will depart one week later, on Saturday 20 November 1999. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Switzerland. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of candidates nominated by the Member States of the OPCW, 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 free of charge by the Swiss Government. 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 contained in 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 curriculum vitae for each nominee, should be submitted to the Assistance Branch at the address below as soon as possible, **but no later than 30 September 1999**, to allow sufficient time for the OPCW Secretariat and the Swiss authorities to make the necessary arrangements. In the meantime Member States are requested to inform the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of any administrative or other problems that may arise in relation to the attendance of any nominee.
7. A tentative schedule for the training course is attached to this Note as annex 2. Further details of the arrangements will be issued as soon as the International Cooperation and Assistance Division receives confirmation from the participants that they will be attending the course. Any question in relation to this course may be addressed to the Assistance Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division.

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Annex 1: Nomination form

Annex 2: Tentative programme schedule

**Annex 1**

**SWISS EMERGENCY FIELD LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAMME  
(SEF-LAB I) SPIEZ, SWITZERLAND, 14 - 19 NOVEMBER 1999**

**NOMINATION FORM**

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

Details of nominee:

- 1. Family name .....
  - 2. First name(s) .....
  - 3. Gender .....
  - 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 .....
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- 16. Nominated by: .....
  - 17. Signed: ..... Date: .....

**Annex 2**

**SWISS EMERGENCY FIELD LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAMME (SEF-LAB I) SPIEZ, SWITZERLAND, 14 - 19 NOVEMBER 1999  
TENTATIVE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE**

Arrival: Saturday, 13 November 1999. Departure: Saturday, 20 November 1999. Training location: CA, course auditorium; Lab, Laboratory sequences  
Practical sequences in the laboratory (Lab 1-7) will be preceded by short theoretical introductions in CA (30min).

	<b>Sunday, 14 Nov</b>	<b>Monday, 15 Nov</b>	<b>Tuesday, 16 Nov</b>	<b>Wednesday 17 Nov</b>	<b>Thursday 18 Nov</b>	<b>Friday, 19 Nov</b>
07:30	09:00 Registration opens (for participants arriving on Sunday)	ACH-E Test Lab 1 Put lab into operation (Laboratory organisation)	Lab 4 Detection of mustard/ nitrogen/Lewisite/CS/CA chemical warfare agents by TLC	Lab 6 -Analysis of cyanide in water -Analysis with CA detecting device in water/ground	Lab 7 TEST Repetition Lab 1-6 Different samples	Lab 7 (continuation) Discussion of results Test evaluation CA Lab clean up - ACH-E test - Maintenance NBC mask - Return of IPE
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:30	14:00 -Administrative information - Introduction CA - The CWC	Detection of nerve agents by thin layer chromatography (TLC)	Lab 5 Detection of arsenic chemical warfare agents by TLC	Excursion "Bernese Oberland"	Lab 7 (continuation)	Visit to NC Laboratory of Spiez (NCLS)
15:30 16:00	Coffee break Article X CWC The chemical threat CA	Lab 2 Detection of nerve agents by TLC in water	- Merckoquant Arsenic - test		Detection of chemical agents (technologies) NCLS	
17:30	Handover of manuals and individual protective equipment (IPE)	Lab 3 Detection of nerve agents by TLC in different samples	- How to make samples	17:00 Excursion - City of Bern	17:15 Closing session CA	
18:30	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner		19:00 Dinner	
19:30 21:30	Prepare and adjust NBC mask Airtightness test	Military support to the civilian authorities (Swiss - MSCA) CA	- Maintenance NBC mask - Individual study CA			

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