



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/164/2000

2 February 2000

ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**SWISS EMERGENCY FIELD LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAMME
(SEF-LAB II), SPIEZ, SWITZERLAND, 14 - 19 MAY 2000**

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 to nominate participants for an emergency field laboratory training course, which will be held at the NBC Training Centre in Spiez, Switzerland, from 14 to 19 May 2000.
2. The course, which is the second 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 Technical Secretariat (hereinafter 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 can 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 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 13 May and depart on Saturday 20 May 2000. 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 **29 February 2000**, 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 to this Note. 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 3823
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 II) SPIEZ, SWITZERLAND, 14 - 19 May 2000**

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 II),
SPIEZ, SWITZERLAND, 14 - 19 May 2000**

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

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

	Sunday, 14 May	Monday, 15 May	Tuesday, 16 May	Wednesday 17 May	Thursday 18 May	Friday, 19 May
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 (continued) Discussion of results Test evaluation CA Lab clean up - AChE Test - Maintenance of NBC mask - Return of IPE
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:30	14:00 -Administrative information - Introduction - The CWC CA	Detection of nerve agents by thin layer chromatography (TLC) Lab 2	Lab 5 Detection of arsenic chemical warfare agents by TLC	Excursion "Bernese Oberland"	Lab 7 (continued)	Visit to NC Laboratory Spiez (NCLS)
15:30 16:00	Coffee break Article X of the CWC The chemical threat CA	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 Berne	
18:30	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner			19:00 Dinner
19:30 21:30	Prepare and adjust NBC mask Air-tightness test	Military Support to the Civilian Authorities (Swiss MSCA) CA	- Maintenance of NBC mask - Individual study CA			