



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and
Assistance Division
S/176/2000
22 March 2000
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**INVITATION FOR A SEMINAR ON THE DESTRUCTION OF ADAMSITE
TO BE HELD IN KRYNICA AND TARNOW, IN POLAND,
FROM 26 - 28 APRIL 2000**

1. The Government of Poland and the Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) wish to invite representatives of Member States of the OPCW to a seminar on the destruction of adamsite. The seminar, which will also be attended by experts from the OPCW's Scientific Advisory Board, will be held in Krynica and Tarnow near Krakow, in Poland, from 26 - 28 April 2000.
2. The purpose of the seminar is to demonstrate the process developed by Poland for the destruction of adamsite. Poland decided after the entry into force of the Convention to destroy its old stock of this chemical. The completion of destruction of the adamsite was witnessed by the OPCW.
3. Adamsite is a non-scheduled chemical originally developed for chemical warfare purposes. It was subsequently used as a training agent and for riot control purposes, although the latter use is no longer accepted in most countries. It has no other legitimate uses.
4. The seminar, which will provide a framework for exchanging experiences of the technological aspects of the destruction of toxic chemicals, is intended to be the first in a series of seminars under the umbrella of the OPCW to facilitate the discussion of technical issues related to destruction technologies. It is the intention of the organisers to provide a forum for the discussion of international cooperation measures under the auspices of the OPCW, in the area of destruction technologies.
5. The provisional programme for the meeting is contained in annex 1 to this Note.
6. Participation in the seminar will be limited to a maximum of two experts from each Member State, one of whom may be eligible for sponsorship. The Secretariat will be able to sponsor a limited number of participants by covering the cost of international travel to Poland and accommodation in Poland for the seminar. Participants seeking such sponsorship will be informed separately of the terms and conditions which accompany it.

7. Interested experts from Member States are invited to complete the attached registration form (annex 2 to this Note), and to return it to the Secretariat **no later than 5 April 2000**, together with an indication of whether sponsorship will be required. The forms should be addressed to the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. They may also be submitted by fax (+31-(0)70-306 3535) or by e-mail (webmaster@opcw.org).
8. Additional information about the meeting may be obtained from the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW, at the address specified in the previous paragraph, or from the delegation of Poland to the OPCW (Alexanderstraat 24/1, 2514 JM The Hague, tel. +31-(0)70-360 6862, or by e-mail at k.paturej@polamb.nl).

Annexes:

1. Provisional Programme
2. Registration Form

Annex 1

SEMINAR ON THE DESTRUCTION OF ADAMSITE

KRYNICA AND TARNOW, POLAND, 26 - 28 APRIL 2000

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

25 April 2000

Arrival in Warsaw

26 April 2000

Morning: transfer to Tarnow

Visit to the destruction plant

Overview of the destruction of adamsite undertaken by Poland

Video presentation

Questions and answers

Afternoon: transfer to Krynica

27 April 2000

10:00 Welcome address (Poland)

10:15 Opening statement by the OPCW Secretariat

10:30 Technology evaluation for the destruction process

11:00 Coffee/tea break

11:15 The destruction process developed for adamsite and other arsenic containing toxic chemicals

11:45 Occupational safety and environmental protection

12:15 Questions and answers

13:00 Lunch break

15:00 Excursion

19:00 Reception

28 April 2000

10:00 Panel discussion 1: national experiences in the development of destruction technologies

12:30 Lunch break

14:00 Panel discussion 2: the future role of the OPCW in facilitating international cooperation in the field of destruction technologies

15:00 coffee/tea break

15:30 Panel discussion 3: cooperation between OPCW and other international organisations in the area of destruction technologies

16:30 Concluding discussion and statements

17:00 Closure of the seminar

Annex 2

**SEMINAR ON THE DESTRUCTION OF ADAMSITE
KRYNICA AND TARNOW, POLAND, 26 - 28 APRIL 2000**

REGISTRATION FORM

Please return the completed form **by 5 April 2000** to:
International Cooperation and Assistance Division: OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32,
2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Fax: +31-(0)70-306 3535.

Please use **BLOCK LETTERS**

1. Family name	_____
2. First name	_____
3. Date of birth	_____
4. Nationality	_____
5. Gender	Male / Female*
6. Ministry/ organisation	_____
7. Passport no.	_____
8. Date of issue	_____
9. Place of issue	_____
10. Date of expiration	_____
11. Contact address	_____
12. Telephone no. (home/work)	_____
13. Fax no. (home/work)	_____
14. E-mail address	_____
15. Academic/professional qualifications	_____
16. Area(s) of expertise	_____
17. Dietary requirements, if any (please specify)	_____
18. Is OPCW sponsorship a precondition for participation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

* Delete as appropriate.