



**AN INVITATION TO PROPOSE CANDIDATES FOR A COURSE ON  
MEDICAL ASPECTS OF DEFENCE AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS  
TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, 23 - 26 OCTOBER 2000**

1. In October, 2000 the National Authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in cooperation with the Technical Secretariat, will hold the third in a series of courses for medical personnel who are or may be involved in the field of defence against chemical weapons.
2. The course has been designed primarily for medical doctors, although applicants from the paramedical professions will also be considered. The course will be particularly valuable for medical professionals who are new to the field, and who do not have an extensive background in the medical aspects of chemical weapons. It will provide a unique opportunity for them to gain insights from the Iranian physicians who have personally treated chemical weapons victims in field situations. The participants will be provided with an overview of the nature of chemical weapons and their effects, and an update on international efforts to eliminate them. The course will enable medical personnel to gain an understanding of the problems they may encounter if they participate in national or international responses to incidents involving chemical weapons, and the assistance and further training that are available through the OPCW. It will provide an ideal foundation for those who wish to attend specialised training courses offered by other States Parties in the future. The course will include not only theoretical lectures, but also case studies involving patients suffering from the chronic effects of exposure to chemical weapons. The purpose of the course is to assist Member States in the implementation of programmes related to protection against chemical weapons (second part of paragraph 5 of Article X), and to improve their capabilities to make full use of the medical assistance provided under paragraphs 8 – 11 of Article X. Details of the subjects that will be covered during the course are presented in annex 1 to this document.
3. The course will be held at the Centre for Treatment of Chemical Weapons Victims in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 23 to 26 October, 2000. The course fee will be USD 1,000 per person, which includes accommodation, breakfast and lunch, medical insurance, the costs of course materials and handouts, and course-related travel within Iran. The fee does not include the costs of travel to and from Iran, and is payable in advance.

4. Throughout the course, the language of instruction will be English. It will not be possible for participants to follow the course unless they have a good working knowledge of that language. No interpretation facilities of any kind will be provided.
5. Background material on the subjects covered by the course will be made available to the participants upon confirmation of participation, to allow them to prepare themselves for the course. Upon request, this material may be sent to the respective missions in The Hague and Brussels to be forwarded to participants.
6. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of candidates nominated by Member States, to cover their travel costs and course fees. When proposing candidates for the course, Member States should specify whether sponsorship is a precondition for their participation.
7. Member States are invited to submit the names of candidates for the course to the Secretariat not later than 21 August 2000. Nominations received after that date will normally not be considered. All nominations, together with the information requested in the questionnaire for candidates (annex 2), should be addressed to the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, NL-2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Applications may also be submitted by fax (+31-70-306 3535) or by e-mail (EmergAssistBr@opcw.org ).
8. Additional information on the course may be obtained from the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, which can be contacted as specified in the previous paragraph.

#### Annexes

Annex 1: Subjects to be covered during the course on medical aspects of defence against chemical weapons

Annex 2: Questionnaire to be completed by candidates for the course on medical aspects of defence against chemical weapons

## **Annex 1**

### **SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED DURING THE COURSE ON MEDICAL ASPECTS OF DEFENCE AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS, TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, 23 - 26 OCTOBER 2000**

#### **1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Overview of the nature of chemical weapons and their effects
- 1.2 Introduction to protection against chemical weapons, including detection, personal and collective protection, and contamination control
- 1.3 Performance reduction and ergonomic problems of using chemical defence equipment

#### **2. MEDICAL ASPECTS OF EXPOSURE TO CHEMICAL AGENTS**

- 2.1 Nerve agents (pathology, signs and symptoms, diagnosis and treatment)
- 2.2 Blister agents (pathology, signs and symptoms, diagnosis and treatment)
- 2.3 Other agents

#### **3. THE IRANIAN EXPERIENCE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

- 3.1 Review of the experiences and lessons learned by Iranian physicians when confronted with mass chemical casualties during the 1980s
- 3.2 Organisation of the medical response to a chemical attack in the field
- 3.3 Organisation and treatment of the chronic effects of CW poisoning, with an overview of the work of the Iranian Veterans' Foundation
- 3.4 Chronic effects of exposure to mustard:
  - respiratory effects
  - dermatological effects
  - ophthalmological effects
  - case studies (guided clinical training sessions, interviews with and examinations of patients exhibiting chronic effects of mustard exposure)

#### **4. INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

- 4.1 Update on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the role of medical personnel in chemical defence and disarmament
- 4.2 Medical aspects of investigations of alleged use of chemical weapons, including practical training in interview techniques
- 4.3 International assistance for Member States of the OPCW



Have you had any previous training in medical defence against chemical weapons?

Yes  No  If yes, please provide details:

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Have you had any actual experience examining or treating patients who have been exposed to chemical weapons?

Yes  No  If yes, please provide details:

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What is your current or expected future involvement in the field of medical defence against chemical weapons?

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