



NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT

**REPORT ON THE WORKSHOP ON LOGISTIC ISSUES
OF THE DELIVERY OF ASSISTANCE UNDER ARTICLE X
OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION,
BRATISLAVA, SLOVAK REPUBLIC, 11 - 14 SEPTEMBER 2000**

1. The workshop on logistic issues of the delivery of assistance under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention was organised by the Government of the Slovak Republic and the OPCW Secretariat, and was held in the capital Bratislava on 11 - 14 September 2000. The workshop was a follow-up to two previous workshops on the coordination of the provision of assistance, at which the participants had emphasised the potential problems in dispatching assistance units and teams, particularly in the areas of logistics, management and transportation. They felt that such issues could only be addressed through close cooperation between the Secretariat and States Parties in a future workshop.
2. The resulting Bratislava workshop was attended by 25 participants, including three Secretariat staff members and a representative of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The participants were from 11 States Parties which have offered technical units or teams: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Iran, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine.
3. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss in detail the major logistic issues involved in the dispatch of units and teams, and to make recommendations to the Secretariat and to States Parties concerning the use of teams offered by States Parties.
4. The workshop started on Monday, 11 September, with an introduction to the facilitators and the participants. After an initial briefing, the Secretariat made the first presentation, entitled "Assistance in case of the use or threat of use of CW: Possible scenarios".
5. The workshop programme was divided into four sections. Section I focused on the state of readiness of the Secretariat and of States Parties to conduct a mission to provide assistance upon request, with particular reference to legal and administrative issues. All the States Parties present made national presentations.

6. The Secretariat provided a brief introduction to Section II, which addressed liability, medical matters and insurance cover for units and teams. The Slovak Republic, Sweden and Germany made presentations.
7. Section III of the programme, which addressed the issue of transportation for civilian teams, military units and equipment to a mission area, again consisted of a mix of presentations and discussions, and the participants exchanged views.
8. Under Section IV, on the management of international units and teams during a mission, the OCHA made a presentation describing the establishment of the On-site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC). Finally, the Secretariat addressed the need for bilateral agreements between the OPCW and States Parties.
9. On the final day of the workshop the facilitators summarised the discussions during the four sections of the programme. The participants were able to make further suggestions and recommendations, and to express their views on the workshop.

Conclusions

10. Section I of the workshop dealt with possible scenarios under which States Parties might request assistance, including military and terrorist attack. It is widely believed that although the threat of military use of chemical weapons will gradually diminish, the risk of a terrorist attack may increase and the OPCW must be prepared to respond. The participants described various scenarios, which need to be developed further. Under one scenario, a State Party has declared CW and these are being held in a storage facility awaiting destruction. The facility is attacked by terrorists, releasing the CW, raising the question of whether the State Party has the right to request assistance from the OPCW. Another scenario, suggested by Belarus, Croatia and Slovenia, concerned an attack on a chemical plant by terrorists. A third scenario involved a chemical catastrophe, and raised the question of whether the OPCW's capabilities might be used to deal with the effects of such an event.
11. Several presentations addressed the Secretariat's readiness to respond to a request for assistance (see annex). The Secretariat delivered a presentation entitled "The state of readiness of the Secretariat", as well as a draft standard operating procedure (SOP) outlining a general approach that needs to be elaborated and submitted to the Executive Council and to States Parties for discussion.
 - 11.1 To assess its state of preparedness, the Secretariat has conducted two investigation of alleged use (IAU) exercises – the first in the Czech Republic in 1999, and the second in Poland in 2000. These exercises showed, among other issues, that duty officers need to be assigned within the Secretariat in case such an investigation is necessary.
 - 11.2 The national presentations on the state of readiness within States Parties were followed by productive discussions. It was suggested that the Secretariat draw up a set of general guidelines, based on the Oslo Guidelines, to ensure that States Parties are prepared to receive assistance. Bilateral agreements and other kinds of arrangement, such as a memorandum of understanding or

simply an exchange of letters, as appropriate, would also help to ensure that States Parties are well prepared both to provide and to receive assistance. For this purpose, the Secretariat could continue to organise courses on assistance so that States Parties can familiarise themselves with the offers made by other States.

- 11.3 The question of how to ensure that the assistance teams are dispatched as quickly as possible needs to be addressed by the Secretariat and States Parties, so that they can together determine how to proceed. One solution is bilateral agreements between States Parties and the OPCW; the Secretariat could develop a model agreement, or State Party governments could make their own arrangements. There are two aspects to this, one technical and the other administrative/legal.
 - 11.4 Another participant raised the question of the extent to which the OPCW is responsible for quality control of the offers of assistance it receives. It was agreed that the OPCW is responsible for the quality of offers, and for ensuring that minimum standards are met.
12. During Section II, on liability, medical matters and insurance, the Secretariat described the OPCW's procedures with respect to staff, inspectors and equipment. It was suggested that a special workshop on medical matters might be helpful, since medical standards within States Parties differ considerably, and coordination was needed. Some States Parties would themselves arrange insurance for the equipment they offer, others would simply write it off, and a third group expected the OPCW to arrange insurance. The issue of insurance for heavy equipment and for personnel needs to be addressed.
 13. During Section III, the participants addressed the issue of transportation. The Secretariat's only experience in this area has been gained during inspections and the two IAU exercises. Some of the issues raised during the discussion, such as arrangements for receiving military teams from different States Parties, avoiding problems with customs, etc., need to be followed up.
 14. During Section IV, on the management of international units and teams during a mission, the OCHA described the establishment of the On-site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) by the United Nations. The participants discussed the suggestion that the OPCW and the OCHA set up a similar coordination centre, and the possibility of a joint exercise.
 15. In response to the Secretariat's presentation on bilateral agreements, several participants, including Croatia, Germany and Ukraine, expressed interest in entering into such an agreement detailing the modalities of and conditions for the provision of assistance.
 16. Finally, the participants agreed that the workshop had been a success, and had addressed some important aspects of the logistics of the provision of assistance. They concluded that a series of workshops, each dealing with a particular aspect of these complex operations, would be very useful.

Recommendations

The workshop participants made the following recommendations:

1. A set of general guidelines needs to be prepared, based on the Oslo Guidelines.
2. Within the Secretariat, duty officers need to be assigned to coordinate an assistance mission whenever a request is received.
3. In order to ensure that teams can be dispatched as quickly as possible, the Secretariat could take a number of steps:
 - (a) encourage all States Parties to conclude bilateral agreements with the OPCW;
 - (b) draw up a set of general guidelines for both offering and receiving assistance;
 - (c) analyse the offers of assistance; and
 - (d) conduct table top and field exercises.
4. It would benefit both States Parties and the Secretariat if the Secretariat could
 - (a) organise a special workshop to address medical aspects of assistance, such as to establish minimum vaccination requirements for assistance team members, and protocols for the use of medicines, antidotes, etc.;
 - (b) draw up a proposal regarding insurance for equipment and personnel;
 - (c) compile the information necessary for the database on protection, required under Article X, by means of a questionnaire to all States Parties;
 - (d) arrange an exercise for setting up an OSOCC with the OCHA;
 - (e) conduct workshops and courses for unit commanders, liaison officers and mission coordinators;
 - (f) conduct a table top exercise and a real exercise once a year;
 - (g) review the model for bilateral agreements, including financial aspects;
 - (h) compile a booklet on emergency assistance for all States Parties;
 - (i) draw up a methodology for the Assistance Branch (EAB);
 - (j) prepare a handbook or manual for responding to requests for assistance; and
 - (k) present clear OPCW standards and guidelines.

Annex: List of presentations

Annex**LIST OF PRESENTATIONS****Workshop on logistic issues of the delivery of assistance under Article X,
Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 11 - 14 September 2000**

1. Assistance in case of use or threat of use of CW: Possible scenarios and aspects
by A. Lampalzer / OPCW
2. OPCW modules 1 and 2
by M. Kosir / Office of the Civil Protection, Slovak Republic
3. Investigation of alleged use (IAU) and delivery of assistance
by H. Mashhadi / OPCW
4. Status of readiness of the assigned means and forces of the Slovak Republic Army
representing a part of the Slovak offer
by O. Toderiska / Commander of the NBC, Slovak Republic
5. Declared chemical production and storage facilities as a target of military and terrorist
actions observed through the prism of Articles I, II, VI and X of the CWC
by Lt.Col. Z. Orechovec / Croatia
6. Legal and administrative aspects of the Swedish offer
by P. Kristensson / SRSA, Sweden
7. Slovenian offer according to Article X of the CWC
by K. Krajnc / Slovenia
8. AFDRU: Austrian Forces Disaster Relief Units
by J. Aigner / Austria
9. State of readiness and preparations for the mission
by J. Nimmrichter / Germany
10. Readiness of the Czech Republic: Delivery of assistance
by V. Sporek / Czech Republic
11. Memorandum of understanding
by H. Khateri and A. Abolhassani / Islamic Republic of Iran
12. Swiss contribution to the implementation of Article X of the CWC
by GS Col. A. Centonze / Switzerland

13. Ukrainian offer with special emphasis on heavy aircraft
by V. Pokotylo / Ukraine
14. State of readiness of the Slovak Republic
15. Liability, medical matters and insurance cover for units and teams
by K. Minarikova / OPCW
16. Health provisions in the Slovak Republic for persons leaving for foreign countries
by MU Dr L. Siskova / Slovak Republic
17. Knowledge and experiences of the Slovak Army from previous missions for insurance
provision in the area of operation
by the Slovak Republic
18. Medical support for troops assigned by the Slovak Republic according to Article X
by the Slovak Republic
19. Transportation of units and teams to the mission area
by K. Minarikova / OPCW
20. Administrative, material and personnel criteria for forming teams/units for
international assistance as a prerequisite for the successful completion of tasks in
accordance with Article X of the CWC
by I. Jukic / Croatia
21. Experience of transportation of units and teams to the mission area
by the Slovak Republic
22. Establishment of the On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC)
by T. Peter / OCHA
23. Experience in the management of international teams during response operations:
COMPROTEX '99
by A. Kertesz / Slovak Republic
24. The need for bilateral agreements between the OPCW and States Parties
by H. Mashhadi / OPCW