

Non Proliferation and Disarmament Co-operation Initiative

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

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The Global Partnership against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction

Reducing the Threat of Chemical Weapons

I would like to thank Ambassador Meerburg for his brief and concise overview on the Dutch CW-destruction assistance to Russia.

As we are sharing the time at our disposal for the topic, I will try to be very brief too. Mrs Uta Zapf, Member of the German Parliament, already outlined in her speech the three programmes Germany is running under the Global Partnership Initiative. Let me elaborate a little further on the German CW-destruction assistance programme to Russia:

Germany has been assisting Russia since exactly 10 years, as our bilateral ministerial agreement was signed on 22 October 1993, long before the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (1997) and –of course- long before the Global Partnership Initiative. Therefore it was possible after the Kananaskis summit , to start immediately discussions with the Russian side on an enhancement of our assistance in Gorny and on the new destruction project in Kambarka.

(start the video)

(While I am relating on the Gorny project you can see on a short video the evolution of the destruction facility from 1999 to its inauguration in August 2002.)

In the **Gorny warfare agent storage site** in the Saratov region approximately 1.200 t of warfare agents were stocked, in particular blister agents lewisite, yprit (also known as lost or mustard gas) and mixtures of both warfare agents. The agents were stocked in three weatherproof halls in 100 and 200-

litre barrels (lost) as well as in 50 cbm steel tanks (cisterns). Following a Russian decision on the destruction method (hydrolysis, followed by electrolysis with arsenic extraction) German companies delivered relevant items of equipment and carried out engineering services to an amount of 48 Mio. Euro by the end of 2003. You will see some parts of the equipment in the video.

As a supplement to the German-Russian co-operation the European Union decided in 1999 within the Framework of the Council Joint Action to join the Gorny project with an amount of approximately 6 Mio. Euro and to entrust Germany with the implementation of the project. (engineering services, draining system of Technological Transport Containers, delivery of air purifying filter boxes). Other partners, like the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, Poland, also joined the project.

As you may know, the project was a success, as Gorny, since the 19th of December 2002, has become the first and only working CW-destruction facility in Russia. At the end of April 2003 Russia fulfilled the important 1st intermediate destruction deadline according to the CWC by destroying 400 t of yprit/mustard gas (i.e. one percent of 40.000 t warfare agents). According to an Interfax press-release of November 17 (three days ago), the whole stock of yprit of 622 t was destroyed by November 14 and now the specialists began taking the yprit disposal line out of operation. This process includes the completion of detoxification, degassing, washing, blowing and drying of the equipment that was in direct contact with the warfare agent. The lewisite disposal line in Gorny will be put into operation only after the yprit line is completely out of operation.

The assistance to Russia in the construction of the **Kambarka CW-destruction facility** was a logical consequence of our participation in the Gorny project. In Kambarka are stored about 6.400 t of Lewisite in 80 cisterns of 50 cbm each, the same blister agent as in Gorny, and the destruction can build upon the experience acquired in Gorny. Since the end of 2002 we had several expert meetings with the Russian Ammunitions Agency to discuss and agree on the details of the German participation in the project. German assistance provides for the

- Construction and delivery of a turn-key ready thermal destruction facility for solid and liquid residual warfare agent materials, along with the building to house it..
- Construction of a system for draining the Lewisite cisterns containing the combat agent. The storage bays will be completely encased, a protective ventilation system will be installed and the modules for pumping off and destroying the combat agent will be mounted. The system will include protective sheltering for the storage halls that can be heated (this will allow to treat the Lewisite even at very low temperatures). and
- Construction of filter systems for contaminated buildings. Similar filter systems are used in nuclear installations in Germany.

A framework contract and several subcontracts were already signed between the German Companies and the Russian General Contractor SojusPromniProject and the implementation phase has begun.

It is evident that these projects can only be successful with an equivalent and enormous effort by the Russian side. Therefore, Germany notes with satisfaction the announcement of Sergei Kiriyyenko, Chairman of the State Commission for Chemical Weapons Disposal and Presidential Representative of the Volga Federal District, delivered at a public forum on November 11 that Russia will increase its state funding for the CW-disposal programme by another 200 Mio. Rubels in 2004. This should lead to a total of 5.56 billion rubles, about 163 Mio. Euro.

Germany also welcomes the Dutch participation (about 4 Mio. Euro) in the Kambarka project for the purchase of equipment needed for the reconstruction of the electrical station and the intention of the European Union to participate in the project with another 4 Mio. Euro. Germany, who is supposed to implement the EU-project following its experience in the Gorny project still is in discussions with the European Commission as to the details of the relevant Financing Agreement.

There is still a lot to accomplish, but the way is paved, as the Gorny facility proves. Let us tackle the CW-destruction problem in a real "Global Partnership".