

Thailand's Intervention in the Standing Committee on
Stockpile Destruction
Geneva, 7 December 2000

In Thailand's Article 7 reports in October 1999 and April 2000, it is stated that 15,000 landmines will be retained for training, research and development according to Article 3 of the Ottawa Convention. However, during the discussions in the last meeting of SCE on Stockpile Destruction in May 2000, concerns had been raised that the number was too high and that APLs should be kept for such purpose only in thousands. Thailand had informed the meeting then that it would reconsider the amount of APLs retained for such purpose. Today, I am pleased to inform the meeting that after serious and thorough consideration, decision was made on 21 November 2000, just a few days ago, that Thailand will retain only 5,000 APLs for training according to Article 3. Thailand Mine Action Center or TMAC will adjust its plan on stockpile destruction accordingly. Thailand welcomes international support both in financial and technical terms, especially on technology that is safe, cost-effective, and environmental friendly.

In this connection, I would like to take this opportunity to point out that some donors have limitations in providing financial support for stockpile destruction, which is often viewed as military matters. However, I think that stockpile destruction should also be accorded high priority. Stockpile destruction can be seen as preventative measure to complement the other aspects of mine actions, a way to nib the problem at its root before it has a chance to become danger to potential mine victims. In this light, I believe that stockpile destruction activities should also benefit from international cooperation and assistance under Article 6 of the Convention.
