

Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction
May 30, 2002

**Statement made by the representative
of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
Mr. Volodymyr Dziub**

Mr. Chairman!
Dear Colleagues,

I appreciate the possibility to inform distinguished participants of this meeting about latest development in the field of APLs stockpile destruction in Ukraine. As you may recall Ukrainian APLs stockpiles consist of 400 thousand APLs of PMN-type and 5.9 millions APLs of PFM-type. Since the last SCE meeting at the end of January 2002 the contract between NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency and Scientific and Technological Center "Spivdruzhnist" was signed to enable the destruction of all APLs of the PMN-type. The total amount of costs of contract is 561 thousand dollars. Two transfers of funds totaling 268 thousand dollars have already reached relevant Ukrainian enterprise and are directed for the establishment of the industrial destruction line. We anticipate that this project will go ahead up to its logical completion without any major obstacles. I avail this opportunity to express on behalf of Ukraine gratitude to donor-countries Canada, Poland, Hungary for their contribution in the realization of this project.

Despite the fact that for the time being Ukraine is not a party (although it is a signatory to the Mine Ban Treaty), it is quite obvious that our decision to get rid of APLs stocks is closely related to the intention to be a state-party in the foreseeable future.

From the formal administrative point of view Ministries and other relevant bodies following the instruction of the Government have already come through the initial phase of Mine Ban Treaty consideration and as a result identified their place and role in the MBT future implementation taken as a whole. Simultaneously the text of the Ottawa Convention was translated into Ukrainian language and has been properly legalized. As a representative of MFA of Ukraine I may assure those of you who are interested in this issue that subsequent steps will follow suit and the way to our ratification will hopefully be straightforward, although this will require some time and patience.

At this juncture practical initiation of the PFM destruction project in Ukraine will be quite helpful and productive to ensure our progress in ratification process. PFM destruction presents the major challenge due to the highly toxic liquid substance used as explosive in these mines. Therefore the choice of the proper technology for PFM elimination should be made to allow environmentally safe, cost-effective and expeditious destruction of large amount of these mines.

For the time being State Commission of Ukraine for Military Industrial Complex has accumulated the set of proposals from different companies and enterprises, including proposals to use their equipment and facilities for the destruction of PFM.

In this context may I inform that recently principally new non-polluting method of PFM destruction has been proposed by Ukrainian scientists. This method excludes detonation and burning for PFM destruction.

The method is based on the reaction of dioxide metal-silicate compound Vetazole type (TY -Y-46.15.053-94) with liquid explosive mine filler of BC-6Д type, as well as with possible products of its degradation, detonation or burning, which all belong to the first class of hazard in accordance to the standards GOST 12.1.007-76.

Resulting product of reaction falls into the fourth class of hazard, is deprived of explosive and toxic properties and cannot be regenerated to the initial explosive through known chemical reactions. Thus, there is no necessity to establish control for further use and to maintain special conditions of storage of the material which is obtained as a result of PFM destruction.

Proposed method eliminates danger of any environmental pollution, re-use of final chemical products for the military purposes and also allows to reach guaranteed detoxification of the PFM warehouses with express identification of the traces of the liquid explosive leakage. The appearance of distinctive "colored" end-product of interaction guarantees indication and decontamination of liquid explosive leakage and enables to carry out detoxification of former PFM mines warehouses, especially the large ones, without additional danger to the staff involved in these activities.

Considerable amount of PFM mines in stockpiles may be destructed at the warehouses by using mobile equipment, which excludes the necessity of hazardous freight transportation through densely populated territory of Ukraine, provides the possibility to avoid risk for the environment and population.

Having said this let me appeal to the eventual donor-states and UNDP as a management body for the PFM destruction in Ukraine to undertake necessary steps to address this challenging issue, which will have important implications for the MBT universality.

Thank you.