

Switzerland

REPORT BY SWITZERLAND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FINAL DECLARATION OF THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION.

Bern, 24 April 2003

Declaration form on nothing to declare or nothing new to declare

Measure	Nothing to declare	Nothing new to declare
A Part 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A Part 2 (i)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A Part 2 (ii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A Part 2 (iii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B (i)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B (ii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
D	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
F	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
G	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Date: 24 April 2003

State Party to the Convention: **Switzerland**

National biological defence research and development programme declaration

Is there a national programme to conduct biological defense research and development within the territory of the State Party, under its jurisdiction or control anywhere? Activities of such a programme would include prophylaxis, detection, treatment, toxicology, physical protection, decontamination and other related research.

YES

If the answer is "yes", complete Form A, part 2 (ii) which will provide a description of the programme.

National biological defence research and development programme declaration

1. State the objectives and funding of the Programme and summarize the principal research and development activities conducted in the programme. Areas to be addressed shall include: prophylaxis, studies on pathogenicity and virulence, diagnostic techniques, aerobiology, detection, treatment, toxicology, physical protection, decontamination and other related research.

The objective of the programme is to develop rapid identification and characterization tests for biological agents and toxins either by immunological or molecular methods.

2. State the total funding for the programme and its source.

Total funding for the programme by the Swiss Federal Department of Defence is in the order of CHF 1'000'000.- per year.

3. Are aspects of this programme conducted under contract with industry, academic institutions, or in other non-defence facilities?

Yes, the following contractors are involved:

- *Swiss Federal Institute for Environmental Science and Technology*
Überlanstrasse 133
8600 Dübendorf
- *University of Bern*
Institut für Parasitologie
Länggass-Strasse 122
3012 Bern
- *Institut für klinische Mikrobiologie und Immunologie*
Frohbergstr. 3
9007 St.Gallen

The programme is supervised by the Spiez Laboratory which is part of the Federal Office for Civil Protection

4. If „yes“, what proportion of the total funds for the programme is expended in these contracted or other facilities?

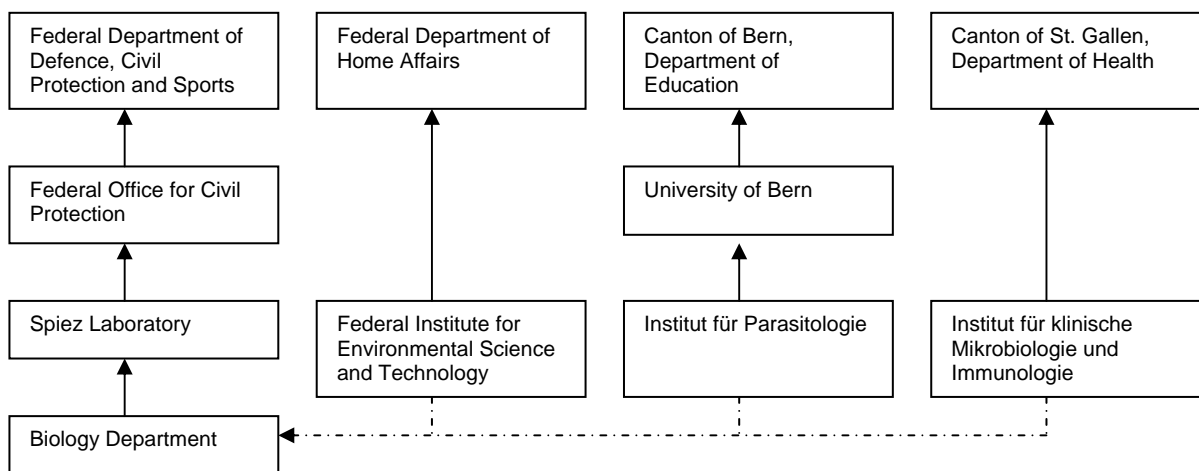
50%

Form A, part 2 (ii)

5. Summarize the objectives and research areas of the programme performed by contractors and in other facilities with the funds identified under paragraph 4.

Cf. para 1 above

6. Provide a diagram of the organizational structure of the programme and the reporting relationship (include individual facilities participating in the programme).



Full lines: direct accountability
Dashed lines: contract-based relationships

National biological defence research and development programme

Facilities

Complete a form for each facility declared in accordance with paragraph 7 in Form A, part 2 (ii). In shared facilities, provide the following information for the biological defence research and development portion only.

1. What is the name of the facility?

Labor Spiez / Spiez Laboratory
Swiss NBC Defence Establishment

2. Where is it located (include both address and geographical location)?

Labor Spiez
3700 Spiez

3. Floor area of laboratory areas by containment level:

BL2 _____ 300 m2 _____ (sqM)

BL3 _____ (sqM)

BL4 _____ (sqM)

Total laboratory floor area _____ 300 m2 _____ (sqM)

4. The organizational structure of each facility.

(i)	Total number of personnel	8
(ii)	Division of personnel:	
	Military	-
	Civilian	8
(iii)	Division of personnel by category:	
	Scientists	4
	Engineers	1
	Technicians	3
	Administrative and support staff	-

Form A, part 2 (iii)

- | | | |
|--------|---|---|
| (iv) | List the scientific disciplines represented in the scientific/ engineering staff. | Microbiology, molecular biology, biotechnology, toxicology / toxinology |
| (v) | Are contractor staff working in the facility? If so, provide an approximate number. | 1 |
| (vi) | What is (are) the source (s) of funding for the work conducted in the facility, including indication if activity is wholly or partly financed by the Ministry of Defence? | Ministry of Defence (100%) |
| (vii) | What are the funding levels for the following programme areas: | |
| | Research | 25% |
| | Development | 25% |
| | Test and evaluation | 50% |
| (viii) | Briefly describe the publication policy of the facility: | - |
| (ix) | Provide a list of publicly-available papers and reports resulting from the work during the previous 12 months. (To include authors, titles and full references.) | none (not yet available) |

5. Briefly describe the biological defence work carried out the facility, including type (s) of micro-organisms^{*} and/or toxins studies, as well as outdoor studies of biological aerosols.

- Environmental monitoring of toxin producing cyanobacteria
- Coordination of external research projects with contractors (universities)
- Food and water analysis

^{*} Including viruses and prions.

Exchange of information on outbreaks of infectious diseases and similar occurrences caused by toxins

General remarks:

1. Human diseases

The Swiss Federal Office of Public Health (*Office fédéral de la santé publique*) is responsible for the surveillance and reporting of diseases. A nationwide notification system is regulated by the Ordinance on the Notification of Communicable Human Diseases (*Ordonnance du 13 janvier 1999 sur la déclaration des maladies transmissibles de l'homme*), which is based on the Federal Law on Epidemics (*Loi fédérale du 18 décembre 1970 sur la lutte contre les maladies transmissibles de l'homme*).

On the basis of this ordinance every medical practitioner is obliged to report the occurrence of certain notifiable diseases. In addition, medical laboratories have to report the identification of notifiable agents. The results of this survey are published in the weekly *Bulletin de l'office fédéral de la santé publique* (internet: www.admin.ch/bag/infreporting/bulletin.html). The *Bulletin*, which also contains detailed reports on the epidemiological situation in the country, is transmitted to the World Health Organisation (*Organisation mondiale de la santé*).

2. Animal diseases

According to the Federal Law on Animal Epidemics (*Loi du 1^{er} juillet 1966 sur les épizooties*) and the corresponding ordinances, certain animal diseases have to be reported to the Federal Veterinary Office (*Office vétérinaire fédéral*) which in turn is responsible for the reporting to the OIE (*Office International des Epizooties*) concerning the diseases covered by the A- and B-list of the OIE. Epidemiological data are regularly published in the weekly *Bulletin de l'office vétérinaire fédéral* and on the internet (www.bvet.admin.ch).

3. Plant diseases

The Federal Office of Agriculture (*Office fédéral de l'agriculture*) reports regularly to the EPPO (*European Plant Protection Organisation*) concerning the occurrence of communicable plant diseases. Certain plant diseases are notifiable according to the Federal Law on Agriculture (*Loi fédérale du 29 avril 1998 sur l'agriculture*) and the corresponding Ordinance on Plant Protection (*Ordonnance sur la protection des végétaux du 5 mars 1962*).

Background information on outbreaks of reportable infectious diseases in humans

Disease	Number of cases per year			
	1999	2000	2001	2002
<u>Bacterial:</u>				
Anthrax / Bacillus anthracis	0	0	0	0
Brucella species	8	16	13	12
Francisella tularensis	0	0	0	0
Plague	0	0	0	0
Salmonella typhi	37	33	33	38
Shigella species	552	404	399	382
Tetanus	3	4	4	0
<u>Viral:</u>				
Tick-borne-encephalitis virus	112	94	not available	not available
Viral hemorrhagic fever	7	0	0	4
<u>Protozoal:</u>				
Malaria / Plasmodium species	316	321	315	271

Background information on outbreaks of reportable infectious diseases in animals

Disease	Number of cases per year			
	1999	2000	2001	2002
African swine fever	0	0	0	0
Anthrax	0	0	0	0
Aujesky's disease	0	0	0	0
Bluetongue	0	0	0	0
Brucellosis, bovine	0	0	0	0
Brucellosis, caprine and bovine	0	0	0	0
Foot and mouth disease	0	0	0	0
Goat pox	0	0	0	0
Hog cholera (swine fever)	0	0	0	0
Newcastle disease	0	0	0	0
Peste des petits ruminants	0	0	0	0
Rabies	0	0	0	0
Rift Valley fever	0	0	0	0
Rinderpest	0	0	0	0
Sheep pox	0	0	0	0
Swine vesicular disease	0	0	0	0
Teschen disease	0	2	0	0
Vesicular stomatitis	0	0	0	0

Active promotion of contacts

1. Planned international conferences, symposia, seminars, and other similar forums for exchange

- name of the conference, etc. Chemical Biological Medical Treatment Symposium V (CBMTS V)

- arranging organization(s), etc. Spiez Laboratory, in cooperation with Applied Science Analysis, Inc. (Aberdeen, Maryland, USA)

- time April 2004

- place Spiez, Switzerland

- main subject(s) for the conference, etc. CBMTS V will bring together professionals most concerned with and directly involved in the scientific, technical and operational aspects of problems associated with the chemical, biological and toxin (CBT) threat to include all actions associated with CBT agent, agrochemical and industrial poisonings. It will address the topics of chemical and biological terrorism and anti-terrorism matters.

- conditions for participation

- point of contact for further information, registration, etc. Internet: www.asanltr.com/cbmts/

2. Information regarding other opportunities

The ***Indo-Swiss Collaboration in Biotechnology*** (ISCB) was initiated in 1974. In October 1999, a new program phase started, which will last for a period of five years (1999-2004). The overall responsibility for the programme is held by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) in Berne and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in New Delhi. For the current programme phase, the funding amounts to a total of 8 mio CHF from SDC and 4 mio CHF from DBT.

The ISCB programme supports joint projects with at least one Swiss and one Indian partner to create synergies across institutes and national borders. Detailed information can be obtained via the internet (www.biotech.biol.ethz.ch/india/).

Since 1990, the Swiss National Science Foundation, commissioned by SDC, manages a programme called ***Scientific Co-operation between Eastern Europe and Switzerland*** (SCOPES). A new phase was launched at the end of 1999, with a budget of 14 million CHF for the years 2000-2003. SCOPES funds institutional partnerships, conference participation for partners, and joint research projects with partners in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Detailed information on projects in the field of biology and medicine can be obtained via the internet (www.snf.ch/en/rep/int/int_sco.asp).