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 DEVE-OPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGIAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION.

Bern, April 2006

Declaration form on nothing to declare or nothing new to declare

Measure	Nothing to declare	Nothing new to declare
A Part 1		X
A Part 2 (i)		
A Part 2 (ii)		
A Part 2 (iii)		
B (i)		
B (ii)	X	
C		X
D		
E		X
F		X
G		X

Date: April 2006

State Party to the Convention: **Switzerland**

Form A, part 2 (i)

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.

Form A, part 2 (ii)

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
- *Zürcher Hochschule Winterthur*
  Postfach 805
  CH-8401 Winterthur

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?

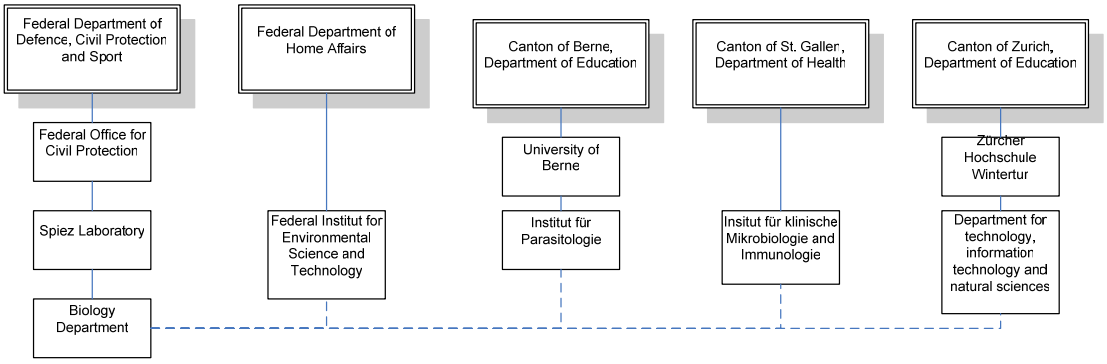
50%

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).



Form A, part 2 (iii)

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 10 m2 (sqM)

   BL4 _____ (sqM)

Total laboratory floor area 300 m2 (sqM)

4. The organizational structure of each facility.

(i)	Total number of personnel	12
(ii)	Division of personnel:	
	Military	-
	Civilian	12
(iii)	Division of personnel by category:	
	Scientists	6
	Engineers	1
	Technicians	5
	Administrative and support staff	-

(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.

- RG3 analysis
- Coordination of external research projects with contractors (universities)
- Food and water analysis

* Including viruses and prions.

Form B

Exchange of information on outbreaks of infectious diseases and similar occurences 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 occurence 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 1er 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 occurence 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).*

Form B (i)

Background information on outbreaks of reportable infectious diseases in humans

Disease	Number of cases per year			
	2002	2003	2004	2005
Bacterial:				
Anthrax / Bacillus anthracis	0	0	0	0
Brucella species	12	5	10	8
Francisella tularensis	0	0	0	0
Plague	0	0	0	0
Salmonella typhi	38	26	41	41
Shigella species	382	322	356	350
Tetanus	0	3	0	0
Viral:				
Tick-borne-encephalitis virus	53	115	135	206
Viral hemorrhagic fever	4	1	0	0
Protozoal:				
Malaria / Plasmodium species	272	230	231	188

Form B (i)

Background information on outbreaks of reportable infectious diseases in animals

Disease	Number of cases per year			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
African swine fever (0000)	0	0	0	0
Anthrax	0	0	0	0
Aujesky's disease	0	0	3	0
Bluetongue (0000)	0	0	0	0
Brucellosis, bovine	0	0	7	0
Brucellosis, caprine and bovine	0	0	12	0
Foot and mouth disease (1980)	0	0	0	0
Goat pox (0000)	0	0	0	0
Hog cholera (swine fever) (1993)	0	0	0	0
Newcastle disease (1998)	0	0	0	0
Peste des petits ruminants	0	0	0	0
Rabies	0	0	0	0
Rift Valley fever (0000)	0	0	0	0
Rinderpest (1871)	0	0	0	0
Sheep pox (0000)	0	0	0	0
Swine vesicular disease (1974)	0	0	0	0
Teschen disease	2	2	0	0
Vesicular stomatitis (0000)	0	0	0	0
(xxxx): year of the last reported and confirmed case) (0000): never any cases reported in Switzerland				

Form D

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 VI (CBMTS VI)
– arranging organization(s), etc.	Spiez Laboratory, in cooperation with Applied Science Analysis, Inc. (Aberdeen, Maryland, USA)
– time	May 2006
– place	Spiez, Switzerland
– main subject(s) for the conference, etc.	CBMTS VI 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

Since 1990, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), together with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), has conducted a programme of scientific co-operation with Eastern Europe (under the name of SCOPES since 2000). Although 15 years have passed since the system change from planned to free market economy, the transition countries still suffer from the many years of obstruction of exchange in the scientific sector.

The drastic reduction of state resources led to the loss of significant components of the previously impressive research capacity and competence. Due to missing networks, the visibility and reputation of researchers is low. The migration (brain drain) of many scientists

from research to other sectors and abroad is the result. For these reasons further qualification is extremely important for increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of research groups in Eastern Europe.

Programme support is awarded primarily for Joint Research Projects (JRP) as well as Institutional Partnerships (IP). Within the former, research groups from Eastern Europe together with partners from Switzerland undertake specific research. For In-stitutional Partnerships, Swiss partners support restructuring and modernisation processes in research institutions in the participating countries.

Besides these two instruments, conference and valorisation grants are financed. Conference grants (CG) enable researchers from partner countries to participate in international scientific conferences being organised and held in Switzerland. Valorisation Grants (VG) shall increase the effects and sustainability of the supported activities and the achieved results in the framework of JRP und IP.

The JRP and IP approved in the framework of the call for proposals in spring 2005 will start in autumn 2005 and will continue until the end of 2008.

After 15 years of common commitment, the SNSF and the SDC have produced the publication "Scientific co-operation between Eastern Europe and Switzerland – a Swiss contribution to the countries in transition", which presents the diversity of the supported activities, the experiences based on them and the achieved results.

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).