

Geneva, 6 February 2003

## **Statement of the Netherlands on the destruction of stockpiled APM**

In 1996 the Netherlands had a stockpile of more than 250.000 anti-personnel mines.

By the end of 1998, the Netherlands had rapidly destroyed nearly all of these mines.

As we reported in detail in our Article 7 reports, we destroyed in the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 a stockpile of 45,026 mines of the type AP 23.

In 1997 the Netherlands also destroyed the complete stockpile of 209.500 AP 22 mines.

Since then, a stockpile of only 272 Gators remained. As the Netherlands indicated in the article 7 reports, the aim was to destroy this last stockpile as soon as possible, but it took us some time to get this last remaining stockpile destroyed.

I am therefore happy to be able to announce today that the Netherlands has destroyed the last APM stockpile (of 272 Gators) in December last year.

Thank you.

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