

Intervention
by Mr. Mykhailo OSNACH,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Ukraine in Geneva at the meeting of the Standing
Committee on Stockpile Destruction
under topic “Stockpile destruction in Ukraine and Moldova”

10 May 2001

Mr. Co-chair,

First of all, I would like to thank Mr. Alexander Verbeek of the MFA of the Netherlands for his informative and detailed report on Moldova.

My short intervention is not intended to compensate for the absence of the keynote speaker on Ukraine but to provide some additional information on certain recent developments in this sphere.

Mr. Co-chair,

During the official visit of the Foreign Minister of Ukraine to Canada in March this year the two sides signed the Framework Arrangement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of Canada on the destruction of anti-personnel landmines in Ukraine.

This Arrangement is based on the joint Memorandum of 28 January, 1999 on Mutually Beneficial Cooperation between the Governments of Canada and Ukraine on the Destruction of Antipersonnel Landmines Stockpiled by the Armed Forces of Ukraine and Prohibited by the Ottawa Convention.

The Framework Arrangement provides for implementation of projects to destroy APLs stockpiled in Ukraine and is viewed as an important precondition for my country to fulfill its plans in this area.

Accordingly, Ukraine took an obligation to ensure effective and expeditious destruction of APLs stockpiles. The first stage of the implementation of the Ukrainian – Canadian Arrangement is supposed to include the destruction of 400 thousand mines of PMN type. The second stage of this program will be the destruction of nearly 6 million mines of PFM type. It is understood, as it was stated at this meeting, there is a need to further evaluate the existing destruction and disposal methodologies for this latter type of mines in order to avoid safety hazards and to minimize pollution risks.

In its turn Canada will provide financial and other assistance to Ukraine needed to support relevant projects and it will also promote the provision of such assistance on the part of other donor countries. Canada will assume a coordinating role among donor countries in consultations with Ukraine and Project Managers.

The Parties will establish a Coordinating Committee to guide and direct the destruction of APLs. The Committee will consist of representatives designated by the Parties, representatives of donor countries providing contributions and representatives of Project Managers.

The meetings of the Coordinating Committee will be held in the capital of Ukraine on a schedule agreed by all members, but not less than once annually.

In addition, the Parties will consult each other in respect of any matter that may arise in connection with the Framework Arrangement.

The role of the Project Managers will be to manage the destruction projects, including the selection of Contractors, negotiation on all contracts, and the monitoring and verification of work completed by the Contractors. The relations between the Government of Ukraine and the Project Managers will be regulated by an Implementation Agreement between them. The Project Managers will be selected by the international group of donor countries in consultation with the Ukrainian Party.

We also had a productive discussion of these issues at the end of March this year in the framework of the Politico-Military Steering Committee of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council.

We believe that the conclusion of the Ukrainian-Canadian Framework Arrangement is an important step in the development of the Ottawa process and of the international cooperation in the sphere of mine-ban.

Thank you.