

## **CANADIAN STATEMENT TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL STATUS AND OPERATION OF THE CONVENTION ON MINES RETAINED UNDER THE TERMS OF ARTICLE THREE**

Canada has stated that it will retain no more than 2000 mines. The Department of National Defence retains this maximum to ensure there are a sufficient number of mines for training and for testing in the area of mine detection, blast protection and clearance. The Article 7 report from April 2005 specified 1907 mines retained for the purposes permitted in Article 3. Since then Canada has acquired 135 mines of types commonly encountered in Afghanistan and, in order not to exceed the 2000 threshold, destroyed 50, for a total of 1992 mines retained.

As of 25 April 2006, the types and quantities retained and reported in Form D are four SB-33, fourteen VS50, ten VAL M69, and six VS MK 2 produced by Italy. 962 C3A2 produced by Canada. 478 M16A1/2 and 95 M14 (down from 145 last year) produced by the United States. 39 PMA-1, 108 PMA 2, 24 PMA 3, two PROM 1, one MRUD, and three PMR 2A produced by the former Yugoslavia. Sixty PP-M1-NA1 produced by Czechoslovakia and fifty-one PMN-2 produced by Russia.

Canada also reported the following 135 mines transferred from Afghanistan. These mines will be reflected in Form D next year. Twenty PMN 2 with fuses, thirty POMZ 2M, twenty OZM 3, ten OZM 4, twenty OZM 72, ten MON 50, twenty YM1, and five Number 4 all without fuses.

Canada retains live anti-personnel mines to study the effect of blast on equipment, to train soldiers on procedures to defuse live anti-personnel mines and to demonstrate the effect of landmines. For example, live mines help determine whether suits, boots and shields will adequately protect personnel who clear mines. The live mines are used by the Defence department's research establishment located at Suffield, Alberta and by various military training establishments across Canada.

Training last year was for two rotations of Afghanistan bound troops or approximately 600 sappers. The Department of National Defence represents the only source of anti-personnel mines which can be used by Canadian industry to test equipment.

A variety of different anti-personnel mines are necessary for training soldiers in mine detection and clearance. Counter-mine procedures and

equipment developed by Canada's research establishment must also be tested on different types of mines that members of the Canadian Forces or others might encounter during demining operations. Canada will continue to conduct trials, testing and evaluation as new technologies are developed. There will be a continuing requirement for provision of real mine targets and simulated minefields for research and development of detection technologies.

In closing I would like to highlight the fact that those who are active in the areas of research and development, test and evaluation or mine clearance have legitimate requirements to retain mines under the terms of Article 3. States Parties should regularly review what they have done with these mines in the past, with a view to ensuring the relative need for retaining in them in the future and that the numbers retained to not exceed the requirement. Canada strongly allies itself with the often stated position of hundreds or thousands but not tens of thousands.