

FIFTH MEETING OF STATE PARTIES – BANGKOK, THAILAND
CANADIAN INTERVENTION - TECHNOLOGY

19 September 2003

Mr President

Canada would like to join other member states in congratulating the co-chairs on their very important work over the past year. Much has been done but much remains to be done.

In respect to technology, the 2003 Final Report from the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies recommended to donors that they have a key role to play in supporting the introduction to the field of new technologies. Additionally Canada has been aware that there has been considerable criticism from, particularly the demining community, over the past five years on the apparent inability of the technology development community to deliver improved or new mine action technology. While there are many reasons for this, not the least of which is the technology challenge of detection, if we are to eventually solve the technical issues surrounding mine action, we must find ways to improve delivery of technology to the field.

To that end Canada is pleased to be able to announce the funding of a Technology Officer position for a period of three years to form a part of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. One of the primary functions of that officer will be to assist in ensuring that appropriate technologies, no matter where they are developed or produced, are identified and fielded. In addition to new technologies, the Technology Officer will also have a role in helping users to identify current technology that would meet their requirements. We see this officer as a key interlocutor, linking even more firmly the development community to the field.