Geneva, 5 April 2010

Excellency,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Coordinator on Generic Preventive Measures, pursuant to Article 9 and the Technical Annex (Part 3) of CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War. You will recall that this topic will be considered again at the 2010 Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol (Geneva, 21 to 23 April 2010).

Thanks to the active participation of several States and experts, considerable progress has been made in the consideration of this issue and, in particular, on the elaboration of the “Guide for the implementation of Part.3 of the Technical Annex”. The finalization of the draft Guide will be a priority for the 2010 Meeting of Experts. Completing the elaboration of the Guide in April will allow for its adoption as a best practice compendium by the States Parties in November, as recommended last year by the Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol. The work is still in progress and I, therefore, would like to encourage all delegations to consider further amendments or adjustments to the draft Guide, before, during and after the Meeting of Expert thus contributing to the improvement of this project. The draft Guide is contained in document CCW/P.V/CONF/2009/2/Add.1, available through the Official Document System of the United Nations (ODS) at http://www.documents.un.org.

Pursuant to the respective recommendation by the Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties and with a view of achieving a better understanding on the aspects of the preventive technical measures, we will also hold an exchange of views on national approaches to implement Article 9 and Part 3 of the Technical Annex. The bar has been placed very high and it is a considerable challenge for each and every State to reach the
appropriate level of efficiency in implementing the Protocol’s requirements in so many fields, inter alia: manufacturing, storage, transportation, packaging, stockpiling, testing, training... Therefore, I would like to invite all High Contracting Parties to consider providing information at the 2010 Meeting of Experts on their national experience, be they successes or difficulties, on fresh ideas, etc.

Last but not least, I intend to continue with the useful practice of addressing one specific technical issue directly related to the implementation of Article 9 and Part 3 of the Technical Annex of Protocol V. In this respect, I would like to invite you to further consider the issue of ammunition management, some aspects of which were already addressed in 2009, and consider, in particular, to present specific case study(ies) that could illustrate different aspects of the issue.

Should you require further information or consultations on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to a fruitful cooperation,

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Captain (Navy) Eric Steinmyller
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The Permanent Representatives of the
High Contracting Parties to CCW Protocol V
on Explosive Remnants of War
Geneva