

4.0 ANALYSIS OF WORLDWIDE SITUATION ON LANDMINES

According to the report on international demining prepared by the Office of International Security Operations of United States Department of State, entitled "Hidden Killers-The Global Problem with Uncleared Landmines" published in 1993, there are more than 85 million uncleared landmines scattered in 62 countries and more are being laid each day. Many of these landmines, especially anti-personnel mines are extremely easy to lay but extremely difficult to detect and destroy.

Prior to assessing the technological implications of retrofitting the landmines with special features such as self destruct, self neutralizing or passive self deactivation devices, an analysis was conducted by SNCIT to evaluate the worldwide situation on landmines. The data base used for this analysis was taken from "MCIS", the Mine Countermine Informations System", USA, November 1993; other publications from the United States and Foreign Government documents; technical reports, manufacturers publications and publications in international magazines.

In addition, information obtained from the visits and discussions with Canadian Department of National Defence organizations such as Defence Research Establishments and Canadian Forces Bases was used in this analysis. Further, the replies to the questionnaire sent to manufacturers of landmines (see Annexes A and B) and follow up with some of these companies resulted in additional data that was used in this analysis.

The analysis of the worldwide situation on landmines is presented with respect to the countries grouped in the following three categories:

- NATO countries
- Former Warsaw Pact countries
- Other countries

For each country, the general characteristics of the mines in terms of type of mine, fuse functioning, kill mechanism, main charge explosive, type of casing, explosive weight, total weight, size and any special features are listed.