

ARTICLE 9bis: TECHNICAL COOPERATION

ISSUE: Developing nations are demanding that some sort of technology transfer mechanism be incorporated into the CCW to assist them in the conversion of existing stocks to SN/SD.

BACKGROUND:

Developing nations fear that despite their theoretical willingness to use SN/SD landmines (for other than remotely delivered mines, which must already use SN/SD under the terms of the existing convention), the relatively high costs of such mines might prevent them from agreeing to support a wider application of SN/SD mechanisms. At the January 95 Experts meeting, a number of developing countries, with China as the lead nation, attempted to obtain a commitment of technical transfer of not only mine clearing information but also new SN/SD technology.. (The debate started with the former but expanded to the latter. Article 9bis is more concerned with the latter). The US resisted any commitment to transfer of SN/SD technology while Germany stated categorically that this will have to be traded for an extension of the CCW to internal conflicts. The debate about this issue is likely to take place between NAM nations and major mine manufacturing nations. There is a possibility that this could become a "tradeoff" issue concessions on scope or verification for commitments to technology transfer, both SN/SD technology and mine clearance technology.

CANADIAN POSITION:

Canada has a very limited mine manufacturing capability and therefore little to offer in the way of technical transfer on SN/SD. Canada does have considerable mine clearance expertise however. Notwithstanding this, Canada should not agree to compulsory technology transfer as no Treasury Board approval for any expenditure in this area has been obtained. Canada should support voluntary participation in technology transfer schemes and interstate cooperation on this issue. Because Canada has no mine manufacturing interests to protect, there may be a useful role for Canada in the negotiations about tradeoffs between SN/SD technology transfer and other issues.

POSITIONS OF OTHER MAJOR PLAYERS/GROUPS:

It would seem likely that few of the mine producing countries in the world are likely to agree to transfer their technology advantage to developing nations on a compulsory basis.

LIKELY AREAS OF COMPROMISE:

See comments above regarding tradeoff issues.