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*Please reply to the Director General*

Your reference

Our reference

Date **26** October 1993

Dear Julian

Very many thanks for the project document and for the opportunity to comment on it prior to your meeting in The Hague. I am indeed very sorry not to be able to be with you in The Hague due to a prior commitment; commenting on your document at this time is the least I can do to help support your project and I would certainly appreciate being kept informed and, hopefully, involved in the future.

Reading through the document last evening, I must first say that it is very impressive. Clearly a lot of thought has been given to the project, it is well considered, soundly based and very clearly expressed; it is also very realistic - the costings illustrate the realism that has gone into the definition of the project. Altogether a very sound, well prepared document and consequently at this stage my comments will necessarily be relatively few - the better a document the fewer the comments required!

Background

Regarding the background section, I agree and fully endorse all that is said - in fact it would be a good idea if these remarks, appropriately edited, could be released into the public domain in a way which enables them to reach the right people. Some of these points individually have been made before, and the relevant concerns expressed, but it is the first time that I have seen them collected together and the impact they collectively make is thus much greater. The only additional point I would add is that for the first 120 days, and especially for the first 30 days, the OPCW will be subjected to a veritable deluge of paper as the declarations come in. All these will need to be scrutinised and decisions made on each one, as well as putting the information into the OPCW database. For many declarations this will be relatively easy, but I fear that the sheer mass of paper and information may swamp the OPCW's limited resources for the first, very critical, few weeks after the Treaty comes into force. The OPCW will at that time be under enormous pressure and despite having some very good people, as you say, it may be necessary to supplement the permanent OPCW headquarters staff with a number of short-term, but knowledgeable employees to help sift through and analyse the declarations according to guidelines laid down by the PTS. Is this something to be included in the project or does it follow-on from the project? Certainly the personnel involved in the project would be uniquely experienced to assist the OPCW for this initial, critical period in this way.



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### Proposal

One of the strengths of the HSP is its independence from vested interests. Partnership with the PTS on this project may give the impression to some people that this independence has to some degree been eroded thus possibly lessening the impact of the project documents to be produced. However, to be effective, the project will require considerable support, by way of staff-time, information etc, from the PTS; the PTS and the OPCW eventually will also derive considerable benefit from the project - so a very close working relationship is of great benefit to both HSP and PTS. Provided that this close working relationship is clearly defined and publicly understood, I think the concern I have expressed above may prove groundless, but perhaps another word than 'partner' could be found to describe the close working and mutually supporting relationship between the HSP and PTS.

Concerning the categories of people to be targeted, two additional categories should be added to the list on page 3 - viz industrialists at managing/works director level or higher and the technical scientific community which may be expected to devise improvements to the scientific/technical support utilised by the OPCW. The relationship of this technical/scientific support, and the technical/scientific community, to the Science Advisory Board envisaged in the Treaty, could also be explored.

The list of topics given on page 3 is really very comprehensive - so comprehensive and well considered that in a way it represents a challenge to find one or two additions! One such is the topic of inspections and control of those private (and for some countries State-owned) chemical industries which may potentially present a threat to the Treaty because of the nature of the chemicals used/consumed in the course of their quite legitimate, non-prohibited activities. This I believe is still a difficult area (indeed it is referred to at the bottom of page 1) and needs to be added to the list, separate from and in addition to those items on page 3 which already refer to industry. Destruction of old/abandoned chemical weapons is also worth separate inclusion since these will generate some special problems. I would suggest that you keep clear of the very difficult question of old (and not so old) chemical weapons dumped at sea eg in the Baltic. The potentially contentious nature of such issues could distract effort and time away from the real purposes and aims of the project.

Regarding the presentation of the output of the project, the written word will be essential, particularly if it is intended to reach people whose native tongue is not English. However, I believe videos could have a useful role to play and one in particular may be useful - the conduct of inspections based on the practice inspections which several countries have already carried out. Combining and editing the records made by the countries of these practice inspections could do much to allay existing concerns about the possibly excessively intrusive nature of inspections.

### Staffing and Budget

These items seem to be well-based and realistic - they should convince most people that this is not a 'kite-flying' exercise, but a well-based, soundly thought-out, carefully prepared and realistic proposal designed to meet achievable, worthwhile and realistic objectives. My one concern here is the question of translation - the question of languages is referred to, briefly, under item 4(iii) of the provisional agenda. Bearing in mind the global nature of the Treaty and therefore the need to reach a wide audience, I believe that translation facilities will be

required and these will need to be included in staffing and budget. They could be quite expensive but their probable costs can only be estimated when it has been decided what shall be the languages in which the output of the project will be issued. In order to keep costs down, I would suggest, for consideration, English, French, Spanish, Arabic and a Far Eastern language as the minimum, but it may be more defensible to argue for issues in the official UN languages. This will be an issue to be debated and decided at the first project meeting next month - until these decisions are taken the overall project costs cannot be finalised.

I have no further comments at this stage. I would just like to close by wishing you personally, and your colleagues at the first project conference, a very successful meeting which I hope will progress the project sufficiently rapidly to enable it to make a positive contribution to the effective and timely implementation of the CWC. I look forward to hearing about the outcome of the first meeting.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Bryan.

Dr B C BARRASS

PS. One final thought concerns the extremely intense pressure under which the present PTS staff are working. They really are working under a very high level of pressure in order to achieve all their very varied tasks within the short timescale allotted. I believe that the overall aim of the project must be to assist and support the PTS to achieve its tasks in a timely and effective manner and not to add significantly to their existing high workload - although I do recognise that some input from the PTS personnel will be essential if the project is to achieve its joint aims.

BARRASS1-C/WP/009/93/PJ