

Freeman

2 Callantina Road,
Hawthorn, Victoria
Australia 3122
13 may 1994.

Dear Matthew,

I'm back from the Regional Seminar, which I thought went very well. It was well attended; all invitees except for Brunei were present, and all took part in the discussions. It was good to see representatives from Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. I enclose my presentation, and the program. I shall send some more of the documentation to Julian as he requested. The proceedings will be published, so I shall not mail everything, unless you would like it. I enclose a brief report; again let me know if you would like more detail. There will be further seminars in Lima and in Indonesia later in the year. I hope that the Indonesian seminar brings in the Island States of the Pacific region. They do not yet have chemical industries, but should not be forgotten.

I also enclose my expense sheet.

Many thanks for the opportunity to attend the Seminar,

With best wishes

Shirley

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Expenses - Regional Seminar

Bangkok, 9th and 10th May 1994

Airlines ticket	\$A 1199
Airport tax	\$A25
Taxis to and from airport	\$A62.80
Shared taxi, hotel to airport Bangkok	\$A15
Total \$A	1301.80

Hotel expenses Bangkok	10,816 baht
Airport tax Bangkok	200 baht

Exchange \$A1 = 71.8 cents US
\$US1 = 24.5 baht

Total expenditure \$US 934.69 +
\$US 449.60

\$US 1384.29

Enclosed: Airlines ticket
boarding passes
taxi receipts
hotel bill

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REGIONAL SEMINAR ON NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

BANGKOK, 9-10 May 1994

The seminar was well attended, and seemed to provide the right format for discussions about implementation in the region. All invitees except for Brunei were present. It was particularly good to see representatives on Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. All States seemed to be well on the way to ratification, and statements about preparations were made. Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines tabled documents. These contain comments about the current size of the chemical industry in the various countries. It seems that they consume chemicals and formulate products rather than producing chemicals; there are however signs that their industries are growing more sophisticated. Indonesia mentioned pesticide plants.

Thailand and Indonesia reported that they have to translate the CWC into their own languages before it can be considered by their legislature. This will impose some delay.

China and Japan reported that they are working towards ratification.

Korea also hopes to ratify later in the year, but has a problem with public opinion being opposed to any disarmament while North Korea is so threatening.

Vietnam has an interdepartmental group studying the tasks necessary before ratification; they commented on the small size of their industry.

Legislation to enable ratification was discussed. No states seemed to have any particular problem.

There was some considerable discussion about the format of the National Authority. My presentation was part of this. Checklists of obligations, such as Julian's and ones put out by the PTS seemed appropriate. There was much emphasis on the need to start the various processes that are needed for ratification.

SIPRI also contributed here, and throughout the Seminar Colin Chee, of the ASEAN Chemical Industries Council, made pertinent and forceful interventions.

A need to review the harmonised customs regulations was identified. It was recognised that at present customs declarations lack enough information to satisfy the needs of the CWC. In particular ports like Singapore see a great deal of transshipment, some of which may not be identified. Rotterdam may be in the same situation.

Assistance, as covered by Articles X and XI was discussed. The importance of these articles was emphasised, but there was none of the polemic that surrounded their drafting!

A data base on protective equipment will be maintained, and also a small stock of respirators, overgarments and medical supplies.

Export controls, as in the Australia Group, were discussed. It

seems to be accepted that these should remain until after entry into force, but should hopefully wither away after that. There is still some feeling in the ASEAN nations that trade restrictions may be an implicit if not an explicit part of the CWC.

Australia announced that its ratification of the CWC was effective as of 6 May.

The Seminar was well run, and the discussions were open and very friendly. The forthcoming seminars at Lima and Jakarta are unlikely to cover new ground, but hopefully will reach nations who have not so far attended. I think that hearing that one's neighbours are about to ratify stimulates a state to prepare to follow suit.