



**Invitation to a Press Briefing on the
5th Anniversary of the GICHD**

Monday 28th April 2003

*7bis av. de la Paix
3rd Floor, WMO Building
1202 Geneva*

Dear Sir, Dear Madame,

On our planet, every 30 minutes a human being is killed or maimed by anti-personnel landmines or unexploded ordnance.

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) supports the efforts of the international community in reducing the impact of mines and unexploded ordnance. The Centre is active in research, provides operational assistance and, supports the implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty.

On Monday 28 April 2003, the Centre commemorates its fifth anniversary.

On this occasion journalists are invited for a briefing on the GICHD's activities and to meet with experts recently returned from mine-affected countries. The briefing will be followed by a refreshment.

The President of the Council of Foundation - Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga, the Director of the Centre - Ambassador Martin Dahinden, and various GICHD experts will welcome journalists (agenda enclosed).

I look forward to welcoming you.

THE DIRECTOR

Ambassador
Martin Dahinden

***Participants are requested to register in advance with
Mr. Davide Orifici, Public Information Officer
022 906 16 91 or 079 747 10 57.***



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Programme

- 11h00 Arrival at *Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining*
- 11h15 Welcome
Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the Council of Foundation
- 11h20 Ambassador Martin Dahinden, Director
Mission, objectives and activities of the GICHD
- 11h30 GICHD experts recently returned from field missions
- Introduction : Ian Mansfield
 - Afghanistan : Ian Mansfield
 - Angola : Conny Aakerblom
 - Colombia : Eric Filippino
 - Iraq : Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) :
Ananda Millard
- Various displays in the Foyer
- Manual demining equipment kit
 - Various types of landmines
 - Mine risk education material
 - IMSMA
 - Videos on mechanical demining and mine detection dogs
 - Detection dogs : Vacuum sampling equipment for filter sampling
- 12h15 Refreshment in the Foyer :
Open to journalists / GICHD staff / GICHD Council of Foundation
and Representatives of IOs and NGOs
- 13h30 End