MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

United Nations Department

Prague March 17, 2009 Ref. Nr.: 095693/2009-OSN

Dear Mr Goose,

I am writing on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic to provide information on state policy and practice regarding cluster munitions that you requested from the Government of the Czech Republic.

A draft law on cluster munition is being prepared and will be submitted to the Government by October 2009. Then the ratification of Convention on Cluster Munitions will begin, in accordance with the legislation of the Czech Republic.

The Army of the Czech Republic owned the RBK-500 and the KMGU BKF PTA types of cluster munitions, but they have already been removed from Army equipment. The Ministry of Defence currently holds, in storage, 67 containers and 5 377 pieces of RBK-500 and KMGU BKF PTAB sub-munitions, which will be environmentally disposed of in accordance with the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The Army of the Czech Republic has never used any cluster munitions in military operations. The excluded cluster munitions are used only for the training of its specialists.

The Czech Republic never produced cluster munitions.

In the past, the Ministry of Defence sold part of its cluster munitions stocks to Czech private firms.

On the transfer and storage of cluster munitions, the Czech Republic will proceed in accordance with the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Sincerely,

Jan Michal Director of the UN Department

Mr. Stephen D. Goose **Executive Director** Human Rights Watch Washington