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CIVIL DEFENCE COMMITTEE

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE RESCUE OF TRAPPED PERSONS AND  
TREATMENT AND REMOVAL OF INJURED PERSONS (AC/23(CD)D/68)

Reply by the Danish Delegation

A. Introduction

As an introductory remark it may be stated that in Denmark a wounded person is described as "lightly wounded" when he - insofar as he is not trapped - is able without assistance to proceed to the nearest place of treatment, while by the expression "severely wounded" is meant any wounded person who must be carried away from the spot where he is found. The definition thus does not directly refer to the severity of the injuries suffered.

In the following replies "lightly wounded" and "severely wounded" are used with the meanings stated above.

B. Treatment and removal of injured persons, who are untrapped or can be released without the aid of specially trained and equipped rescue teams.

- (a) Lightly wounded persons are referred for treatment to the nearest medical station.

The task of the medical station is to give the severely wounded a treatment enabling the greatest possible number of them to stand prolonged transport, and to give the lightly wounded all necessary treatment.

Generally the medical station is accommodated in the local hospital. In larger towns, where the distance from the spot where the wounded is found to the nearest hospital may exceed 1 km., we intend to establish additional medical stations under the management of the local hospital. Furthermore, we intend to evacuate the greater part of each of the hospitals situated within presumed target areas into rural areas, prior to the development of a dangerous situation.

- (b-c) It is not the intention in Denmark to establish teams with the sole task of treating lightly wounded persons; the teams formed will each constitute the staff of a medical station. The composition of these teams has not been finally decided upon as yet. The personnel of the medical stations will consist of doctors and nurses and

a number of volunteers. The enlistment of this personnel has been entrusted to the local hospitals.

- (d) Lists are being prepared at present of the minimum equipment necessary for a medical station..
- (c) Since medical stations in this country will be accommodated in premises previously prepared for this purpose, it is not considered to be necessary to provide transport facilities for the teams staffing the medical stations.
- (f) A special training in war surgery and the treatment of war casualties for doctors and nurses has been commenced and a further development of this training is planned.

With regard to the volunteers assisting in the medical stations an advanced course of first-aid treatment will probably be given.

- (g) Only in the medical stations mentioned under (a).
- (2)(a) We intend to establish a nation-wide ambulance organization, the ambulances of which are to be distributed to all hospitals and other institutions for the use of sick and injured persons, i.e. the medical stations in the towns and the hospitals temporarily evacuated to rural areas, as well as special auxiliary hospitals which will, if necessary, be established outside the towns.

This ambulance organization will deal with the transport of wounded from the spot to the medical station, where anti-shock treatment is given, and proceed to the final place of treatment (whether ordinary hospital or auxiliary hospital).

- (b) As the majority of hospitals in the case of an attack are expected to be outside the target areas (the towns), only a few of the ambulances will be within the latter.
- (3) We intend to provide the following types of treatment:
  - (i) Simple first-aid treatment given on the spot.
  - (ii) At the medical station: anti-shock treatment and further treatment enabling the injured to stand the transport to the final place of treatment.
  - (iii) Final care in hospital or auxiliary hospital.

The following replies refer to the first-aid treatment given on the spot where the injured is found.

- (a) The members of ordinary rescue and clearance teams are given a training enabling them to give simple first-aid treatment.
- (b) Refer (a). The number of members in a rescue and clearance team should be about ten.

- (c) The personnel will be recruited from among volunteers. In case of war the Civil Defence Act provides for recruitment by conscription.
- (d) The question as regards the equipment of the teams has not been settled as yet, but the equipment should - in addition to clearance equipment - include simple wound dressing materials.
- (e) The teams will travel in lorries requisitioned for this purpose.
- (f) All members of rescue and clearance teams will, in addition to the training in clearance technique, be given a training in first-aid and simple anti-shock treatment.
- (g) As far as possible the teams should be stationed near the outskirts of towns (the target areas).

C. Rescue of trapped persons

- (1) and (2) In Denmark no distinction is made between teams with the task of caring for seriously injured and trapped persons and teams caring for seriously injured persons not trapped in buildings. The rescue and clearance teams will care for both categories.

All replies given under (B) will therefore apply also in this case.

D. Stretcher bearing

- (a-b) Each ambulance has a crew of two; a driver and a deputy driver. It is being considered to enlist this personnel from among conscripts rejected for military service. In principle the work of these persons is only the actual driving of the ambulance, while the transport of wounded on stretchers is the job of the special rescue teams. The distance from the spot where the injured is found to the ambulance will presumably often be long, and the special rescue teams may require assistance. It is assumed that such assistance may be obtained from volunteers among the uninjured members of the public - including the ambulance drivers - it is considered to be sufficient if one of the persons carrying a stretcher has been trained for this job.
- (c) (i) According to the plans each rescue and clearance team will carry four stretchers to the spot where the injured persons are found, for the removal of the latter to the ambulance.
  - (ii) According to the plans each ambulance will likewise carry four stretchers and when the stretchers with the injured are loaded into the ambulance, the empty stretchers are handed over to the rescue teams for the transport of other injured persons.

- (iii) On the arrival at the hospital new stretchers are supplied to each ambulance from the stores kept at the hospital, so as to make the ambulance ready for service again.

The number of stretchers available should thus be three times as large as the available ambulance accommodation.

E. Stretchers

- (1) The significant measurements are the overall length and the width of the stretcher measured between the centres of the legs and the width of the legs.
- (2-3) In consequence of the views mentioned under D (c) the dimensions of the stretchers to be used in this country must be standardised. Agreement has been reached between the Military and Civil Defence Authorities, and the Emergency Medical Service as to such a standardisation. The type of stretcher to be used by the services mentioned will be identical as regards standard measurements and collapsibility with the type of stretcher used by the Allied Forces during the second world war and by the UN forces during the war in Korea.

The chief dimensions of the stretcher are:

Overall length	229 cm.
Length of canvas	180 -
Minimum width between legs	50 -
Width between centres of legs	54 -
Width of legs	1.9-4 -
Overall width of stretcher	60 -

Reference should be made to the attached diagram.

Stretchers of this type are at present being purchased in a quantity of 4,500 for the Civil Defence, the Emergency Medical Service and the Civil Defence Organization of the Danish State Railways. The Military possesses a number of British and American stretchers of the same type, but it has not been adopted by the ambulance services for peacetime purposes. Stretchers of different types and dimensions are being used here.

