

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
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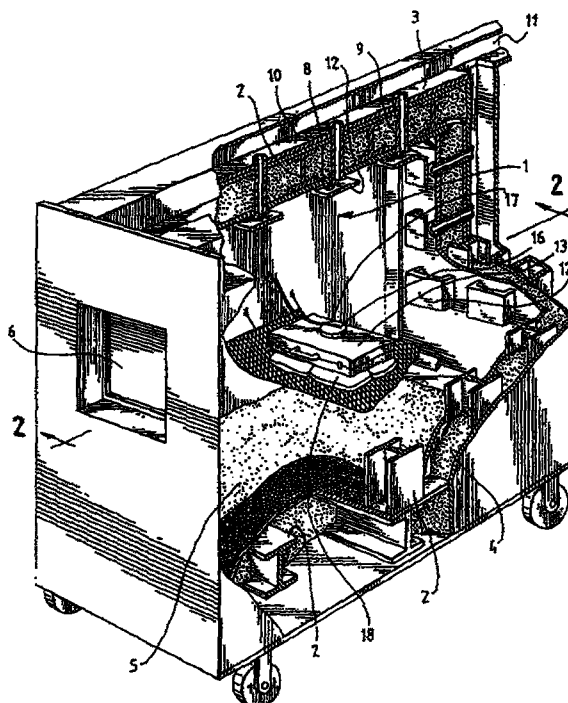
(43) International Publication Date
5 July 2001 (05.07.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/48437 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: F42B 33/00 (81) Designated States (national): AU, CA, CN, JP, MX, SG.
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/41549 (84) Designated States (regional): European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).
- (22) International Filing Date: 24 October 2000 (24.10.2000)
- (25) Filing Language: English Published:
— With international search report.
— Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments.
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
09/457,976 9 December 1999 (09.12.1999) US
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- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF SUSPECTED TERRORIST WEAPONS BY DETONATION IN A CONTAINED ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method for the destruction of terrorist weapons, including explosives chemical and biological agents, by detonation in an enclosed double-walled steel explosion chamber (1) having its walls (3), access door (6) and floor filled with granular shock damping material (4). The chamber is vented through orifices into vent pipes (9) which converge in a manifold

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(10) which exhausts into an expansion tank or scrubber for cooling, testing, and environmental treatment of the explosion products. A weapon (13) to be destroyed is placed into the chamber with a donor explosive charge (16) and held in place by a disintegratable string hammock (17), along with one or more plastic polymer film bags (18) containing water. For use in destroying known or suspected chemical or biological weapons the donor charge is augmented with an oxidizing material such as potassium nitrate, and the resulting fireball is enhanced by powdered metal such as aluminum, to achieve an instantaneous pressure of 100 kilobars and instantaneous temperature of 3,000 degrees Celsius.