BACKGROUND DOCUMENT ON COMPLIANCE BY STATES PARTIES
WITH ALL THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION ON
THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND
TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

Addendum

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

In accordance with the decisions adopted at the twenty-seventh congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and the declaration made by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on 15 January 1986, the Soviet Union is working for the implementation of a programme of universal security through disarmament, which is aimed at ridding our planet of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction before the end of the present century. Implementation of this programme forms an organic part of the task which the Soviet Union has set itself of laying the foundations for a comprehensive system of international security.

Of great significance for the achievement of these objectives is strict compliance by States with their obligations under existing agreements in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, conspicuous among which is the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, which entered into force in 1975. In the Soviet Union, this Convention is highly valued as the first measure of genuine disarmament in the history of international relations, and one which removed from States' stockpiles one of the most dangerous types of weapon of mass destruction.

Recognition of the contribution made by the Convention to the cause of disarmament and of its effectiveness, may be seen in the fact that 101 States are party to it, and that the number of parties is gradually but steadily growing.

In accordance with the law and practice of the Soviet Union, compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons, which was ratified by a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the

GE.86-64106/4281E
USSR dated 11 February 1975, is guaranteed by the appropriate State institutions of the USSR. The Soviet Union does not possess any of the bacteriological (biological) agents or toxins, weapons, equipment or means of delivery mentioned in article I of the Convention, nor does it conduct research and development with the aim of creating or improving this type of weapon. It has never transferred the agents, toxins, weapons or means of delivery referred to in article I to any recipient whatsoever, nor has it assisted, encouraged or induced any State to manufacture or otherwise acquire them.

The Soviet Union strictly observes its obligations under article III of the Convention, and has not transferred and will not transfer to its allied States or to third countries bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons or any information relating to their development or production. The Soviet Union has no stocks of this type of weapon outside its own territory, and does not conduct development work prohibited by the Convention on the territory of other States. Thus the implementation of articles I, II, III and IV of the Convention is reliably ensured.

With regard to article V, the USSR, which is a depositary of the Convention, has received no information since its entry into force to the effect that any of the parties has made use of the procedure for lodging complaints of violations of the agreement. The parties to the Convention are implementing its provisions in a spirit of co-operation and goodwill.

The Soviet Union is opposed to attempts to undermine this important international agreement in the field of disarmament, on various trumped-up pretexts, and believes that in present circumstances the efforts of all States parties should be concentrated first and foremost on further strengthening the Convention, enhancing its authority and broadening participation in it.

Of course, the Soviet Union is no less - perhaps more - interested than other countries in reliable verification of compliance with the Convention. We regard verification as a constituent part of agreements in the field of disarmament. Disarmament without verification is impossible, while verification without disarmament is pointless.

The Soviet Union is consistently guided by the provisions of article IX of the Convention, which note the importance of negotiations with a view to reaching agreement on effective measures for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons. On the basis of this approach, the Soviet Union favours the maximum possible intensification of negotiations for the conclusion of an effective and verifiable convention on the comprehensive prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons.

In its efforts to expedite the solution of this important problem, the Soviet Union submitted to the second special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament, in 1982, a set of "Basic provisions of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction", which took into account the positions of other parties to the negotiations, including their views on verification. This proposal, taken together with subsequent Soviet proposals on various aspects of the problem of banning and destroying chemical weapons, remains a sound basis for the conclusion of a convention on this subject.
Further to the statement of 15 January 1986, the Soviet delegation at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament introduced new initiatives at the end of April this year concerning timely notification of the location of chemical weapon production facilities, the immediate cessation of their operations, the establishment of conditions permitting a rapid start to the destruction of stocks of chemical weapons, and also the destruction or dismantling of production facilities. At the same time important proposals were introduced concerning verification of the dismantling of chemical weapon production facilities and the cessation of their operations under strict controls, including systematic international on-site inspection.

The talks have now reached a decisive stage at which the preconditions exist for agreement on an international convention for the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons. There is a need for political will on the part of all participants in the talks. However, the plan to implement a programme of chemical rearmament in NATO, and the decision to begin production of binary weapons, a new variety of chemical weapons, are in direct contradiction with the elimination of chemical weapons. The emergence of binary weapons would particularly seriously limit scope for verification of observance of the Convention.

In the interests of ensuring favourable conditions for the development of a convention, it is vitally important that all States should refrain from any actions which might hamper the talks on banning chemical weapons, and in particular from producing and deploying binary and other new types of chemical weapons, and also from placing chemical weapons on the territory of other States.

In highlighting the complete prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons as a major task, the Soviet Union believes that in present circumstances certain intermediate steps should be taken towards that goal, including in particular agreement on the non-transfer of chemical weapons and their non-deployment on the territory of other countries. We in the Soviet Union have always abided by these principles in the field of practical policy.

A wide range of activities are underway in the USSR under article X of the Convention.

In the Soviet Union research and development using micro-organisms and toxins are carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes in the interests of health, the micro-biology industry and agriculture.

The Soviet micro-biology industry specializes in the production of products for making agriculture more intensive, as well as preparations for medical use. Enterprises in this sector produce and supply farmers with vaccines, fodder yeast, essential amino acids, vitamins, enzymes, antibiotics, micro-biological plant protection agents and bacterial fertilizers. They are expanding the development and supply of various types of medical preparations for health purposes and bio-reactants for scientific research, obtained by means of micro-biological synthesis. Each year there is growth in output of products and preparations for the textile, food, chemical and other industries.
Genetic engineering has made a substantial contribution to the development of bio-technology, helping to produce productive strains for special-purpose products, including insulin, interferon, growth hormones and essential amino acids, and success has also been achieved in obtaining immuno-regulatory peptides, anti-gens for influenza, foot and mouth disease, herpes, hepatitis and rabies and other physiologically active substances.

In the field of bio-technology international links are being established both in the economic and in the scientific and technical field, through the export of our output, the import of production equipment and scientific apparatus, joint work on scientific and technical problems with various CMEA member countries, and also the sale of licences and the provision of technical assistance to foreign countries in establishing new capacity or modernizing existing capacity.

Multilateral co-operation is serving as an umbrella for the co-ordination of plans for the development of the micro-biology industry in the member countries of CMEA, international specialization and co-operation in the production of food additives, the development of CMEA standards, and also participation in the work of the International System of Scientific and Technical Information in the field of Chemistry and the Chemical Industry.

Under an overall agreement and bilateral agreements with the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Cuba, the Soviet Union is constructing a factory at Mozyr to produce fodder protein.

Bilateral scientific and technical co-operation in the field of bio-technology is also underway with Italy and Switzerland.

Negotiations have been conducted with a number of companies from capitalist countries: ICI and John Brown (United Kingdom), Hoechst-Uhde and Linde (Federal Republic of Germany), Rhone-Poulenc and Fine-Technine (France), Pharmacia (Sweden) and so on. Seminars are regularly held with foreign companies, with the participation of specialists from scientific research institutes and enterprises.

Export items include solvents (acetone and butanol), furfural, cromogrizin, pectofoetidin and vitamin B12. Laboratory equipment and apparatus make up a substantial part of imports.

The sale of licences has increased in recent years. Licences have been sold for the production of ethyl alcohol (to Brazil), threonine (to Japan and Czechoslovakia), and alkaline protease and a disintegrator (to Czechoslovakia).

Technical assistance has been provided to Bulgaria for the construction of an entobacterin plant, to Cuba for the production of furfural and lysine, and to Romania for a fodder yeast plant.

The Soviet Union believes that the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction should promote the further strengthening of this important agreement as regards genuine disarmament and the broadening of international co-operation in the interests of developing bio-science and bio-technology for peace and progress.