THIRD 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


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*

* The present document contains the information provided by States
Parties to the Secretariat, between 26 August and 10 September 1991, pursuant
to paragraph 23 of the Preparatory Committee's report.

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AUSTRALIA

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

Article I

Australia has never developed, produced, stockpiled, or acquired biological weapons or the weapons, equipment or means of delivery designed to use such agents for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.

Article II

In view of the situation outlined above, article II does not apply to Australia.

Article III

Australia is fully in compliance with article III.

Article IV

This provision of the Convention is given effect in Australia by the Crimes (Biological Weapons) Act of 1976 which was enacted on 27 February 1977 and the Crimes (Biological Weapons) Regulations of 26 February 1980. Pursuant to the decisions of the First Review Conference, copies of the Act and the Regulations were forwarded to the United Nations Centre for Disarmament in December 1980. Copies of these documents were also forwarded to the United Nations Department of Disarmament Affairs in August 1991.

Also relevant to the implementation of the Convention in Australia are the non-statutory guidelines for procedures and containment requirements for work with genetically manipulated organisms developed by the Genetic Manipulation Advisory Committee which was established in 1988. Non-compliance with the guidelines could result in the withdrawal of government funding. Containment standards set by the committee are comparable with the standards of the World Health Organization.

Article V

Australia has not formally invoked the provisions of article V, nor have the provisions of article V been invoked against Australia. Australia remains concerned about reports as to the compliance of other parties with the provisions of the Convention, and continues to feel a need for additional mechanisms that would assist in dispelling any uncertainties about compliance by any party.

Pursuant to the decisions of the Second Review Conference and in line with the modalities devised by the Ad Hoc Meeting of Scientific and Technical Experts, Australia submitted information in relation to research centres and laboratories in 1987, 1990 and 1991. Australia also submitted background information in those years on the reporting of communicable diseases within Australia under the exchange of information on outbreaks of infectious diseases which seem to depart from the normal pattern.
Articles VI and VII

Australia has not invoked the provisions of articles VI and VII.

In this context Australian assistance to the United Nations Special Commission established under UNSCR 687 to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction has relevance. As well as other assistance in the chemical weapons field Australia provided personnel who formed part of the Commission's first biological weapons inspection team.

Articles VIII and IX

Australia is committed to the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention which would ban the development, production, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons and which would provide for the destruction of all existing stocks of chemical weapons and their production facilities. This is a high priority of the Australian delegation to the Conference on Disarmament.

As part of Australia's efforts to conclude a chemical weapons convention, Australia sponsored the Canberra Government-Industry Conference against Chemical Weapons in 1989. It has also facilitated meetings between the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons' negotiators and chemical industry experts. To assist the negotiators Australia has also conducted a number of trial inspections. Since 1989 Australia has mounted a chemical weapons regional initiative among the countries of South-East Asia and the South Pacific to promote awareness of and future adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention. In 1990 Australia established a national chemical weapons convention secretariat which has developed and is implementing a programme to prepare for the national implementation of the Convention. Australia has announced that it does not possess chemical weapons and that it will be an original signatory to the Convention. It has encouraged other countries, both bilaterally and through its regional efforts, to make similar declarations.

Australia has strongly supported the adoption of interim measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol, such as United Nations General Assembly resolutions 44/115B and 45/57C.

Article X

Activities covered by this article to the Convention are carried out by both government and non-government organizations in Australia. All research into micro-organisms and toxins is directed solely towards peaceful purposes in accord with both the letter and the spirit of the Convention. The research is unclassified and the results published in the scientific literature. There is extensive information exchange and cooperation on peaceful basic research in the biological sciences between Australian and other scientists.

The Australian Government implements this provision of the Convention through the administration of facilities such as the Commonwealth serum laboratories and the Australian animal health laboratory, which have collaborative research programmes with a number of international research groups and organizations, and through its contributions to the work of a number of international bodies such as the World Health Organization (WHO),
the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) through the provision of data reporting on the status of a wide range of diseases, animal and human, within Australia.

Data on communicable diseases in Australia is compiled by the Commonwealth Department of Health, Housing and Community Services and is publicly available in the journal, Communicable Diseases Intelligence, which is published fortnightly by the Department.

Australia also has a number of bilateral and regional arrangements for the exchange of information on communicable diseases.

Australia also participates in the OECD Group of National Experts on Safety in Biotechnology.
CHINA

EXPLANATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON ITS OBSERVANCE OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

At the request of the Preparatory Committee for the Third 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, the Government of the People's Republic of China hereby gives an account of its observance of the Convention as follows:

I. Having been caused great harm by biological weapons, China has all along stood for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of biological weapons, and has never developed, produced, stockpiled or otherwise acquired or retained biological agents, toxins, or weapons equipment or means of delivery for them, prohibited under the Convention. China is opposed to the proliferation of biological weapons and their related technologies, and has never in any way assisted, encouraged, or induced any State, group of States or international organizations to engage in any of the aforementioned activities prohibited by the Convention.

II. China strictly abides by all the provisions of the Convention and carries out in a serious and comprehensive manner all its obligations arising therefrom. In accordance with the Final Declaration of the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention, China has also, since 1988, submitted to the United Nations reports containing Convention-related information dating from 1984, the year in which China acceded to the Convention.

III. China attaches importance to and actively engages in the peaceful uses of bio-technology. In recent years, a large contingent of scientists have been channeled into biotechnology research, one of the areas to which the country gives top priority. Impressive headway has been made both in the basic research as well as in the development and actual application of the results of the research. These results, some attaining to international standards or in the lead domestically, have been put to extensive use in agricultural, industrial, medical and pharmaceutical fields, yielding remarkable social and economic benefits.

IV. Actively supporting international exchanges and cooperation in the peaceful uses of bio-technology, China encourages publication of the results of biological and bio-technology research and helps Chinese biologists with their contacts, exchanges and joint research with their foreign counterparts.

V. Exchanges and cooperation between China and the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other international organizations and countries in the fields of medicine and public health have borne fruit and are still under way.

VI. China has always advocated the early conclusion of a convention on the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of chemical weapons, and to this end has actively participated in the negotiations on such a convention at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.
ITALY

Italy has fully complied with the obligations set out in the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of the Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their destruction.

According to the Italian legislation, the development, the production, the stockpiling and also the transit through the Italian territory of the weapons of concern to the Convention are forbidden.

Furthermore, since Italy was not in possession of agents, toxins, weapons, equipments and means of delivery specified under Article I of the Convention, the question of destroying them or diverting them to peaceful purposes never arose.

Italian laws also strictly discipline the transfer of agents and toxins referred to in the Convention, so as to prevent their diversion to forbidden purposes. In order to ensure an effective implementation of such provisions, controls have been introduced also on the transfer of equipments and technology related to the production of those agents and toxins, including protective equipments.

In this respect Italy advocates a more comprehensive international cooperation in order to prevent any possibility of developing such weapons, without precluding the international cooperation for peaceful purposes. It is in fact a firm conviction of the Italian Government that pursuing international scientific and technological exchanges in the bacteriological and biological fields for prophylactic purposes, for the preparation of vaccines and for the improvement of medical treatment and public health is a necessity for mankind. In order to achieve these objectives the Italian Government reiterates its support for a regime of "open laboratories", aimed at facilitating scientific exchanges and at sharing knowledge on matters relevant to the improvement of human welfare.

Italy has also actively participated in the consultation and cooperation carried out within the framework of the United Nations in connection with the concerns raised by the policy of Iraq and its compliance to the 1972 Convention.

At the same time the conclusion of a Convention for the total ban of chemical weapons, which is being negotiated within the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, is viewed as a matter of the utmost urgency. Italy has been very active in the negotiations with the view of contributing to the urgent solution of the still outstanding questions and of paving the way to the adoption of a Convention next year.

Italy has participated in the information exchange in the biological field agreed at the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention as a confidence-building measure. We share the views of those who believe that this exercise has not yet fully met its goals and that its procedures
could be further strengthened. We therefore favour the achievement of an agreement aimed at building upon the already existing confidence-building measures and we are prepared to give our contribution to the identification of new ones in order to expand the scope of the exercise and give more substance to the obligations of the Convention.

In this respect, taking into consideration the scientific progress achieved in the last few years in the research on agents of concern to the Convention and given the attempts carried out by some countries to procure a military capability in this field, we expect that the Third Review Conference will allow a thorough discussion on the possibility of setting up a regime of inspections and of identifying a list of biological, bacteriological agents and toxins for export control purposes.
NORWAY

In preparation for 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 held in 1986 Norway submitted a statement to the fact that Norway had complied fully with all provisions of the Convention.

In response to the request for information regarding compliance with the Convention in connection with the Third Review Conference Norway, referring to her earlier statement, confirms that there has been no change in Norway's position.

Thus, Norway has never developed, produced or stockpiled any biological or toxin weapons. Norway has never transferred any biological or toxin weapons nor provided assistance for their production to anyone. Norway has fulfilled her obligations under the Convention by including the main part of Article I of the Convention in the Norwegian penal code. All research in micro-organisms and toxins is directed solely towards problems related to epidemiology of infectious disease, medical treatment and prophylaxis. In accordance with the substance and spirit of Article I the research is unclassified, and the results are published in scientific literature.
MATERIAL ON COMPLIANCE BY THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
WITH THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT,
PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL)
AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

Article I

The Soviet Union has no biological weapons and is not engaged in any
research or development with a view to producing them. In full compliance
with its obligations under this article, the Soviet Union keeps at its
disposal agents of infectious diseases and toxins only of those kinds and in
those quantities which are indispensable for research in a programme of
defence against bacteriological warfare, and these are kept under strict
supervision and control.

Article II

The Soviet Union does not belong to this category of States Parties.

Article III

The Soviet Union complies fully with the conditions laid down in this
article, neither transferring nor assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to
manufacture or use biological weapons, and is taking steps to prevent the
proliferation of such weapons.

Article IV

In accordance with current Soviet legislation and practice, compliance
with article IV of the Convention is ensured by the appropriate State
institutes of the USSR.

Article V

In accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Security Council Resolution 687
(1991) of 3 April 1991, the Soviet Union decided to take part in the
United Nations Special Commission dealing with, among other things, Iraq’s
biological weapons, thereby confirming its readiness to consult and cooperate
with other States Parties in solving any problems which may arise in relation
to the objective of, or in the appreciation of the provisions of the
Convention.

Article VI

Since the entry into force of the Convention, the Soviet Union has
received no reports to the effect that any party thereto has lodged a
complaint about breaches of the agreement as provided for under this article.

Article VII

To date the Soviet Union has had no formal reasons for applying
article VII.
Article VIII

The Soviet Union has always complied fully with the obligations set forth in this article, and will support any interim measures to lend greater authority to the 1925 Geneva Protocol. To this end, it has detailed experts and two laboratories – the "Mikrob" All-Union Research Institute on Plague Control of the USSR Ministry of Health, in Saratov, and the Byelorussian Epidemiology and Microbiology Research Institute of the Byelorussian Ministry of Health – to help the Secretary-General of the United Nations to investigate the possible use of biological weapons.

Article IX

The Soviet Union regards the comprehensive banning of chemical weapons as a matter of cardinal importance and is making active efforts in the talks at the Conference on Disarmament to hasten the completion of a multilateral convention prohibiting the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and the destruction of stocks of such weapons. In 1987 it unilaterally ceased production of chemical weapons, and it was one of the first to declare its willingness to become an original party to the future convention prohibiting chemical weapons. It was the first to reveal the size of its stocks of chemical weapons, and demonstrated samples of such weapons and the technology for their destruction to delegations from the 45 countries taking part in the talks on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

Article X

The Soviet Union is active in various international collaborative efforts to use advances in biology exclusively for peaceful purposes.

It believes that close scientific cooperation and unhindered exchange of the findings of research conducted in the interests of public health, the biotechnology industry and agriculture significantly help to build confidence in States Parties' compliance with the Convention.

The Soviet Union has 32 centres collaborating with the World Health Organization in all the most topical areas of infectious disease prevention; 17 belong to the system of scientific institutes operated by the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, and 11 to the USSR Ministry of Health.

They include centres working on viral hepatitis, poliomyelitis, arboviral infections, brucellosis, leptosyrosis, hydrophobia, chlamydia infections, mycoplasmatales, malaria, plague and other zoonoses.

The USSR Ministry of Health's Central Institute of Epidemiology is a leader in research into the etiology, clinical treatment and prevention of infectious diseases. In connection with its research on HIV infection, improvements in immunology and especially dangerous infections, it has extensive scientific contacts with countries in Eastern and Western Europe, South-East Asia and Mongolia, and trains foreign specialists. The USSR Ministry of Health's Institute of Medical Parasitology and Tropical Medicine is engaged in a programme of scientific collaboration with Thailand, China,
Cuba and the United Kingdom. It regularly holds seminars on the epidemiology and treatment of malaria and how to control the vectors of malaria. The most recent was held in 1990.

A programme of scientific and technological assistance under the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the USSR and India to help India produce polio vaccine is nearing completion.

The Epidemiology and Microbiology Research Institute of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences is the country's largest institute studying bacterial and other infectious diseases. Besides basic research, it engages in extensive international scientific contacts. It includes seven centres collaborating with WHO on subjects including rhinitis and chlamydia, vectors and how to control them, and natural outbreaks of disease.

There was a serious revival in scientific publications on the epidemic situation in the country in 1989, chiefly thanks to the disclosure of full data on incidences of infectious diseases and outbreaks of such infections. All the information on the incidence of disease within the Soviet Union, including cholera since 1965 and plague since 1920, has now been analysed and published.

This enabled the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences to hold a meeting in March 1991 at which it discussed all aspects of infectious disease and means of preventing it in the modern era.

The Academy of Medical Sciences' Institute of Virology – one of the country's leading scientific centres – is engaged in extensive scientific programmes on viral infectious diseases. In 1989 it hosted an international conference on arboviruses attended by leading experts from the main military biological centres of the United States and the USSR. The Institute's laboratories include five centres collaborating with WHO on, among other things, the herpes virus, arboviruses and viral hepatitis. The prospects for collaboration between the Institute and India in studying the aetiology and epidemiology of viral hepatitis and organizing the manufacture of a vaccine against hepatitis B were mapped out. The Institute trains junior scientists from abroad.

Authoritative scientific organizations in the Soviet Union include the institutions of the State concern known as "Biopreparat".

The All-Union Research Institute for Applied Microbiology makes highly effective therapeutic, prophylactic and diagnostic products for human and veterinary health care and bioinsecticides for use in agriculture. The results of its research have been published in some 2,000 articles in Soviet and foreign journals. Over 100 reports have been presented at 22 international conferences, symposiums and congresses in the United States, Canada, France, Italy, Denmark, Germany and other countries. Over 130 different products made at the Institute have been exhibited at 20 international exhibitions.
There is an All-Union Research Institute on Super-pure Biological Substances. Its principal function is to develop means and methods of making highly refined proteins and biological substances for use in medicine, the food industry and agriculture, and materials and equipment for biotechnology applications. It recently held talks with representatives of 15 foreign companies on the production of biological substances. Thirty-two companies have been supplied with information on the Institute's activities and with samples of its products. The Institute is working under contract with the Pharmacia Corporation of Sweden. In June it hosted an international conference on AIDS attended by experts from the United States, Britain and Canada.

The "Vector" production facility of the All-Union Research Institute for Molecular Biology conducts basic research in molecular biology, medicine and ecology. It is developing and producing vaccines and diagnostic agents, virus-based defences for plants and biologically active substances based on animal and human cells. The Institute is taking part in the Human Genome Project, protein and cell engineering, AIDS control and other programmes. It has contacts with Oxford Virology, New England Biolabs and universities in Ottawa and Alabama.

The Institute of Immunology studies the immunology of the processes of vaccination and infection, the human immune system and the individual components of the immune response in the protection of vaccinated and unvaccinated subjects. It is developing molecular and chemical vaccines and highly specific test systems. It has joint projects with the Finnish firm Vallak, and has published over 100 papers in Soviet and foreign journals.

The research institutes of the USSR Ministry of Defence - dealing with military medicine and microbiology - are working on defences against weapons of mass destruction, including biological weapons. Their workers publish their research findings in the open press and non-technical literature. Between 1986 and 1991 they produced over 120 papers which appeared in well-known Soviet scholarly, popular science and reference publications. Seven All-Union conferences have been held with their active participation. The institutes have sent representatives to four major international conferences.

The Soviet Union roundly condemns the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons in violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, to which it became a party in 1928, and will continue to do so.

The Soviet Union is deeply interested and active in the preparation, organization and conduct of encounters, seminars, symposiums and congresses of scientists and experts on matters relating to the Convention. At seminars in Umeå in Sweden and Noordwijk in the Netherlands, Soviet representatives spelt out the position of the USSR on the questions of confidence-building and greater openness among the States Parties to the Convention and the development of a special verification mechanism.
Article XIV

Nearly 20 years of experience with the application in international practice of the Convention, the parties to which – including the Soviet Union – now number over 110 States, have demonstrated its enormous importance and significance. More than 10 States have acceded to the Convention since the Second Review Conference alone. The Soviet Union has helped to increase the number of parties by inducing new States to accede.

The Soviet Union is convinced that the widest possible application of the Convention could do much to strengthen international security. Inducing additional States to accede and confirming the seriousness and strengthening the authority of the Convention have become particularly important in the light of new advances in biology and biotechnology and the increased danger of the proliferation of biological weapons.