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

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FRANCE

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

By its adherence to the Convention on 27 September 1984, France expressed its will to contribute towards the process of disarmament in general and chemical and biological disarmament in particular.

While recognizing the importance of the object pursued, France had until then refrained from signing the Convention, taking the view that it had a number of shortcomings, the main one being the absence of verification measures.

In point of fact, France has since 1972 implemented all the Convention’s provisions literally and unrestrictedly and has complied with all obligations deriving from it. An Act (Act No. 72467 of 4 June 1972) was adopted by the French Parliament with a view to the establishment and implementation of provisions similar to those of the Convention.

With regard to compliance with the obligations deriving from the Convention, the following information is provided in response to the request addressed to States Parties in paragraph 23 of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Third Review Conference (BCW/CONF.III/1 of 15 April 1991):

Article I

Since 1972, France has not acquired microbial or other biological agents or toxins of types or in quantities usable for armament purposes.

Very small quantities of agents of biological origin are retained exclusively for peaceful purposes, essentially with a view to acquiring better knowledge in the diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic fields. These agents are held under strict supervision and control.

Article II

France does not belong to the category of States Parties covered by this article.

Article III

France has fully complied with the provisions of this article.

Article IV

France adopted the appropriate legal measures in 1972.

Articles V, VI and VII

France has not invoked these articles.
Article IX

France has continued and continues to participate most actively in negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement on a convention banning chemical weapons.

To that end, in January 1989 it organized the Paris Conference of States Parties to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and other interested States on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

Article X

France participates, both through public institutions and through the private sector, in several programmes of technology exchange and training of personnel with a number of States.

Furthermore, the French Government supports international bodies working in the spheres of public health, medicine, nutrition and food.

France has also strengthened its cooperation in the areas covered by this article by negotiating international agreements designed, among other things, to facilitate the free exchange of pertinent information.
COMPLIANCE BY THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND WITH THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

The following information is supplied in response to the request contained in the United Nations Secretary-General's Note DDA/15-91/BW/D-II of 30 May 1991.

**Article I**

Since its ratification of the Convention, the United Kingdom has not developed, produced, stockpiled or otherwise acquired or retained biological agents or toxins of types or in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes. The United Kingdom maintains only small quantities of potential biological warfare agents for peaceful, primarily research and prophylactic, purposes. These are held under strict supervision and control. No delivery systems designed to use these agents for hostile purposes exist, nor are any being developed.

**Article II**

The provisions of Article II of the Convention impose obligations only upon those States Parties which possess or have under their jurisdiction or control, biological agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery specified in Article I. Since its ratification of the Convention the United Kingdom has not fallen into this category of States Parties.

**Article III**

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the provisions of this Article.
Article IV

The Biological Weapons Act was enacted on 8 February 1974. This legislation provides for the necessary measures to be taken under domestic law to enable the United Kingdom to fulfil its obligations under the Convention.

Article V

The United Kingdom has not found cause formally to invoke the provisions of this Article.

Article VI

The United Kingdom has not found cause formally to implement the provisions of Article VI.

Article IX

The United Kingdom continues to play an active role in the negotiations to reach agreement on a global, comprehensive and verifiable Convention to prohibit the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons.

Article X

The United Kingdom Government actively supports activities involving the exchange of material, equipment and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological and toxin agents for peaceful purposes.

The United Kingdom Government plays its full part in fulfilling the provisions of this Article by its funding of reference collections of micro-organisms such as The National Collection of Type Cultures, The National Collection of Yeast Cultures, The National Collection
of Food Bacteria and The World Reference Laboratory for Foot-and-Mouth Disease. The United Kingdom also contributes to international bodies such as the World Health Organisation and the European Molecular Biology Organisation.

The United Kingdom negotiates international agreements designed to promote and facilitate further co-operation in the field of peaceful bacteriological (biological) activity. Examples of such agreements include:

UK/USSR Agreement on Co-operation in the field of Medicine and Public Health (1975).

UK/Czechoslovakia Agreement on Co-operation in the field of Medicine and Public Health (1976).


Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation (under the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation) with China (1984).


**Article XIV and Article XV**

In performance of its duties as a Depositary Government the United Kingdom has fully complied with the terms of paragraph 5 of Article XIV and with the provisions of Article XV.