

**CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED**

~~SECRET~~  
~~CONTROLLED DISSEM~~

Memorandum to  
Holders of  
NIE 11-10-63  
19 August 1965

# MEMORANDUM

To Holders of

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

NUMBER 11-10-63

## Soviet Capabilities and Intentions With Respect to Chemical Warfare

*Submitted by the*  
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

*Concurred in by the*  
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

As indicated overleaf  
19 AUGUST 1965

~~SECRET~~  
~~CONTROLLED DISSEM~~

Nº 394

~~SECRET~~

Memorandum to Holders of  
NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE  
NUMBER 11-10-63

# **Soviet Capabilities and Intentions With Respect to Chemical Warfare**

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

*The following intelligence organizations participated in the preparation of this estimate:*

The Central Intelligence Agency and the intelligence organizations of the Departments of State, Defense, and NSA.

**Concurring:**

Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State  
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency  
Director of the National Security Agency

**Abstaining:**

The Atomic Energy Commission Representative to the USIB and the Assistant to the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the subject being outside of their jurisdiction.

~~WARNING~~

~~This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, USC, Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited.~~

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM TO HOLDERS OF  
NIE 11-10-63: SOVIET CAPABILITIES AND  
INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CHEMI-  
CAL WARFARE (Secret, 27 December 1963)

1. New evidence requires a revision of the discussion of the Soviet toxic agent stockpile in paragraphs 4 and 7 of NIE 11-10-63. We have now located [ ] depots which we believe are devoted primarily to the storage of toxic agents; these have an estimated total maximum storage capacity of approximately 380,000 tons. We previously estimated 10 such depots with a total capacity of 300,000 tons. These estimates of total storage capacity do not take account of other possible depots or of field storage on which we do not have conclusive evidence.

2. Five of these depots, with an estimated total capacity of 180,000 tons, are confirmed toxic agent storage sites. Evidence of an expansion of facilities at three of these suggests that present storage capacity is fully utilized or nearly so. In NIE 11-10-63 we thought it prudent to assume that the total toxic agent stockpile, both in depots and available to tactical units, was at least 50,000 tons. The new evidence, which suggests full utilization of certain confirmed storage sites, leads us to conclude that this stockpile is probably at least 200,000 tons and could be considerably larger.

3. On this basis, we would revise Conclusion A of NIE 11-10-63 to read as follows:

A. Our evidence indicates that Soviet organization, equipment, stocks, training, and research and development can support substantial toxic chemical warfare operations. ~~There is insufficient evidence of toxic agent production rates or amounts in stock to make a reliable estimate of the scale on which they could conduct these operations.~~ Main

~~SECRET~~

reliance now appears to be on the very toxic nerve agents. Research and development are continuing, including efforts to develop nonlethal incapacitating agents.

4. We reaffirm the other Conclusions of NIE 11-10-63, which are reproduced below.

B. The Soviets have a variety of chemical munitions for theater operations, but we believe that their use in a long-range strategic role is not now planned.

C. Soviet and European Satellite forces possess a wide range of equipment for defense against chemical warfare, but they still lack a satisfactory means of timely nerve agent detection. Civil defense capabilities are considerably lower than those of the military.

D. We believe that the Soviet leaders think of chemical weapons as essentially tactical weapons, but they consistently group them with nuclear weapons as "weapons of mass destruction." The Soviet leaders thus probably consider them subject to the same political constraints as those imposed on nuclear weapons, and any decision regarding their initial use almost certainly would be made at the highest political level.

E. The Soviet leaders almost certainly would authorize the use of toxic chemical agents by their theater field forces in a general nuclear war. In a limited war in which no nuclear weapons were being used, they would probably not initiate the use of chemical weapons.

~~SECRET~~

# THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## DISSEMINATION NOTICE

1. This document was disseminated by the Central Intelligence Agency. This copy is for the information and use of the recipient and of persons under his jurisdiction on a need to know basis. Additional essential dissemination may be authorized by the following officials within their respective departments:

- a. Director of Intelligence and Research, for the Department of State
- b. Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, for the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- c. Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army, for the Department of the Army
- d. Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Intelligence), for the Department of the Navy
- e. Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, USAF, for the Department of the Air Force
- f. Director of Intelligence, AEC, for the Atomic Energy Commission
- g. Assistant Director, FBI, for the Federal Bureau of Investigation
- h. Director of NSA, for the National Security Agency
- i. Assistant Director for Central Reference, CIA, for any other Department or Agency

2. This document may be retained, or destroyed by burning in accordance with applicable security regulations, or returned to the Central Intelligence Agency by arrangement with the Office of Central Reference, CIA.

3. When this document is disseminated overseas, the overseas recipients may retain it for a period not in excess of one year. At the end of this period, the document should either be destroyed, returned to the forwarding agency, or permission should be requested of the forwarding agency to retain it in accordance with

4. The title of this document when used separately from the text should be classified: ~~TOP OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

### DISTRIBUTION:

White House  
National Security Council  
Department of State  
Department of Defense  
Atomic Energy Commission  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

~~SECRET~~  
~~CONTROLLED DISSEM~~

~~SECRET~~  
~~CONTROLLED DISSEM~~