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International Communication Agency United States of America

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Office of the Director

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Washington, D.C. 20547

February 4, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Honorable William P. Clark Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs The White House

FROM:

Gilbert A. Robinson Such

SUBJECT:

The U.S. Response to the Soviet Chemical Warfare Buildup

The revised factsheet and "Q and As" represent in our estimation a solid advance over preliminary versions, and have the makings of a useful public affairs treatment. Your staff has been highly professional in dealing with us in this difficult matter.

However, final review of USG plans is needed to achieve the most effective public presentation. Our position is still somewhat defensive. We should seek to focus world attention on the continuing desire of the United States to achieve a verifiable treaty on chemical warfare, while being prepared for production of replacement munitions if necessary. We offer the following recommendations:

A brief introductory statement such as prepared by USICA (copy attached) should be drawn on by the State Department press spokesman to announce the broad U.S. policy response to the Soviet chemical warfare buildup. State would refer additional questions to DoD and ACDA.

Following the State announcement, DoD and ACDA briefings should be held which reiterate the Department's policy announcement and add evidence for our view of the Soviet buildup and of our careful and considered approach. The DoD spokesman would respond to press queries about binary weapons along lines in the factsheet and Q and A's, keeping the stress on:

-- The buildup of Soviet chemical forces.

-- The use by the USSR of chemical agents in Asia.

-- The U.S. search for peace.

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State Dept. review completed.

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-- The deterrent intent and nature of any foreseeable U.S. chemical munitions.

-- The binaries as replacements for older systems.

-- The plans to phase down outmoded munitions and arrive at a smaller effective deterrent.

-- The U.S. view that we do not need to match the Soviets and therefore perceive no "chemical arms race."

ACDA should explain some of the past difficulties in negotiations and some possible new approaches. ACDA would include mention that the U.S. is considering steps to resume negotiations.

Together the press statements and additional background briefings should be perceived by the press as a USG effort to prod the Soviets to negotiate a verifiable treaty. It would be seen that the U.S. is leaving time for negotiation while preparing to produce replacements for existing outmoded munitions if necessary.

We also recommend that the principal officials involved in the decision and its public presentation meet as soon as possible to discuss these suggestions, review the factsheet and Q and A's, and map out additional briefings and steps recommended in our proposed scenario (copy attached).

With careful and total coordination aimed at the fundamental impression we wish to create, it should be possible to deflect at least some of the opposition. FBIS and other reports of media coverage abroad as well as reports from our Embassies (recent cables from Bonn and London are attached) show that the Soviets are poised to mount a significant propaganda campaign against the U.S. decision, and that they will have receptive audiences in Europe. Independent of whatever mischief the USSR might attempt, recent coverage in the American press attests to ready condemnation here and abroad unless we construct a policy that takes the high ground and directs attention to U.S. peace efforts in this instance.

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cc: The Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger Secretary of Defense

> The Honorable William J. Casey Director of Central Intelligence

The Honorable Walter J. Stoessel Deputy Secretary-Designate Department of State

The Honorable David R. Gergen Assistant to the President for Communications

The Honorable Richard R. Burt Director of Politico-Military Affairs Department of State

Mr. Horace Russell Staff Member National Security Council

The Honorable Robert C. McFarlane The White House

The Honorable Frank C. Carlucci Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Honorable Fred Ikle Under Secretary for Policy Department of Defense

The Honorable Henry Catto Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs

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Statement on the U.S. Response to the Buildup by the Soviet Union of Chemical Weapons

Statement: Replacement of Old Chemical Munitions

As a deterrent to discourage Soviet use of their massive chemical warfare capacities and in the absence of a verifiable treaty banning such weapons the United States has concluded that it is regrettably necessary to undertake preparation in the coming year for production two years hence of replacement chemical munitions for those currently in the U.S. deterrent stocks. These would, if produced, REPLACE ---NOT SUPPLEMENT --- older types that are less safe to store and handle. These are not new and they are not biological. They are a retaliatory deterrent. The United States has already renounced first use of such munitions. No deployment is planned. Deployment could only occur after consultations with and approval of our Allies. Such consultations have not occurred.

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Background: The Growth of Soviet Chemical Warfare Capabilities

For the past thirteen years the Soviet Union has steadily produced massive amounts of chemical weapons, and developed large-scale chemical warfare capacities, including equipment, special decontamination vehicles, and extensive experimentation. At present the Soviets have stockpiled several hundred thousand tons of chemical weapons. Some 50- to 100,000 Soviet soldiers have been trained in the use of and defense against chemical weapons. The USSR has spent large sums of money to equip and protect its forces against chemical war. The Soviet CW capacity is not limited to one region, but could affect any country.

U.S. Restraint

The Soviets have no reason for such build-up. The United States in 1969 renounced the first use of chemical and biological weapons and toxins, and unconditionally renounced all methods of biological warfare.

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President Nixon in that year ordered the destruction of all existing stocks of biological agents and weapons. The United States closed research and production facilities, reducing its research and development to a strict study of how to defend against attack by an adversary.

Soviet Use of Mycotoxins

The world community is now aware that the Soviets have been responsible for the use of new weapons, the mycotoxins — commonly known as "Yellow Rain" — against helpless peoples in Laos, Kampuchea and Afghanistan. The testimony of those who have suffered, the chemical analyses, the pattern of use by the Soviets or proxy forces, amount to undeniable proof of Soviet involvement in odious acts. (See attached Department of State report.)

U.S. Efforts to Ban Chemical Weapons

Between 1977 and 1980 the United States conducted bilateral negotiations with the Soviet Union toward a comprehensive, verifiable

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agreement to bun and eliminate chemical weapons. The talks were suspended in 1980 because the Soviets could not agree to adequate verification of both parties' compliance.

The United States stands ready to resume negotiations with the USSR and try once again to achieve an agreement that is clear, equitable and provides for adequate verification.

We hope the decision announced today will prove an incentive to the Soviet Union to negotiate a verifiable ban on chemical weapons, an achievement that will serve the best interests of all nations.

Attachment



SECRET ATTACHMENTS

NOTE :

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The attached documents were inadvertently omitted from the memo from Gilbert A. Robinson to Judge William P. Clark dated February 4, 1982, subject: The U.S. Response to the Soviet Chemical Warfare Buildup.

SECRET ATTACHMENTS

International Communication Agency United States of America

Scenario

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Public Announcement of U.S. Response to the Soviet Buildup of Chemical Weapons

Assuming that the FY 1983 budget request, including items for chemical munitions, will be sent to the Congress in early February and thus be a matter of public record, the following scenario for public affairs treatment is proposed. The scenario calls for a coordinated series of U.S. public affairs initiatives in Washington and overseas that seek to direct public attention overseas to the actions of the Soviet Union.

1) Any additional evidence or reports on the Soviet use of mycotoxins should be made available to the press prior to the submission of the budget to the Congress. However, the USG should not attempt artificially to generate attention to mycotoxins because it would be reported as a transparent effort to distract world attention from our impending decision on chemical weapons. Reports or statements from Congressional leaders, other private American sources, particularly scientists and leaders and experts from other countries, would be useful.

2) Shortly before release of the budget, a number of senior U.S. officials should have deep background briefings on an exclusive basis with a few leading columnists or editors, explaining the forthcoming decision with emphasis on our intent to use binaries as a deterrent and an incentive to the Soviets to attain a verifiable agreement.

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3) The State Department Spokesman at the noon briefing on the day of release of the budget should make a brief, forceful statement on U.S. plans regarding chemical weapons (draft attached). He should of course be prepared for questions with a briefing paper drawing on the cables already prepared by State and DoD and talking points consolidated by USICA (drafts attached).

4) At the same time White House, NSC, DoD and State Department senior officials and briefers should brief the press corps including meetings at the Foreign Press Center and followup exclusives for leading foreign press. U.S. officials should have in hand the briefing papers that focus on Soviet buildups and actions, U.S. interest in negotiations and the deterrence intent of our weapons.

5) The Department should instruct Ambassadors in key countries to seek statements from foreign leaders that fix the onus for the buildup of chemical weapons on the USSR and support a US call for renewed negotiations. Similar statements from other public figures should also be sought.

6) A Presidential statement should be prepared either for delivery by the President personally before the press corps or as part of a press conference, in which the President:

-- Regrets the need for US preparations;

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-- Places the responsibility for our decision on Soviet actions;

-- Calls strongly for resumed negotiations;

-- Emphasizes that we have consciously built in time for negotiation before being forced to proceed to production;

-- Asks the Soviets to account to the world for their stocks and military preparation;

-- Seeks support from the international community for a treaty that is verifiable;

-- Stresses the deterrent and retaliatory nature of US weapons.

7) Coincident with the actions directly related to the U.S. decision, the USICA Wireless File or USINFO and Voice of America should carry stories on previous U.S. 'actions and agreements attempting to ban and eliminate biological and chemical weapons, and more general accounts of major U.S. arms reduction and peace initiatives, as well as analyses of Soviet chemical warfare strategy.

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8) It will be valuable for the Voice of America and the File to cross-play to the field texts or summaries of any supportive media reaction and public statements from abroad and from the U.S.

9) At every opportunity senior U.S. officials should voice their commitment to search for ways to make progress in arms reduction and guarantee world peace and security.

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E.O. 12255: EDS-1 01/27/12 (STREATOR, EDWARD J.) TAGS: MPOL, UK, NATO SUBJECT: MANAGING THE CW ISSUE IN EUROPE

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S. S-ENTIRE TEXT

2. WE CONCUR IN EMBASSY BORN'S INSIGHTFUL ANALYSIS OF THE DANGERS POGED TO OUR FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICY GOALS BY THE CHEMICAL KEAPONS ISSUE.

3. THERE HAS BEEN A STEEDY DEUMSEAT OF CRITICAL MEDIA ATTENIION 10 THE CY ISSUE HERE STHEE THE ANORETTA HOEBER INTERVIEW WITH -- UTTR'S, WHICH RAISED THE

POSSIBILITY OF CV DEPLOYMENTS IN BRITAIN. WE EXPECT MEDIA INTEREST TO BULTIPLY FOLLOWING JANUARY 25 EDITION OF EEC'S WEEKLY NEWS DOCUMENTARY "PANORAMA," WHICH FOCUSED CH CW ISSUES. PROGRAM REHEARSED HOEBER CONTROVERSY, LAID HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN ANY CW EXCHANGE, CAST DOUET ON U.S. ASSUMPTIONS OF A SOVIET ON BUILDUP, SPOKE DARKLY OF NEW CW VEAPOUS TO FOLLOW BINARIES, AND FEATURED 2-MINUTE SEGMENT APPARENTLY FROM OLD HILITARY TRAINING FILM WITH U.S. VOICEOVER) OF RADBIT DYING FROM OW EXPOSURE. THERE WAS ALSO A STATEMENT THAT PANCRAMA HAD "INDEPENDENTLY CONFIRMED" THAT HIGH-LEVEL COD OFFICIALS DID, IN FACT, WANT TO DEPLOY NEW BINARY WEAPONS IN EUROPE.

4. RECAUSE OF RECENT PUBLICITY, THE MOD HAS ALREADY RECEIVED A LARGE NUMBER OF CUERIES ON CW AND IS EXFECTING A DELUGE FOLLOWING LAST EVENING'S "PANORAMA" PROGRAM. IN RESPONDING, THE NOD WILL DRAW FROM WASHINGTON'S GUIDANCE (STATE 11311 AND 13243).

5. OUR CONTACTS AT THE FCO AND THE NOD HAVE DEEN EXPRESSING INCREMENTING CONCERN THAT A CM CONTROVERSY IS THE VACUE ISSUE AT THE VEOLIG TIME. THIS IS NOT JUST THE SENTICEUT OF FCO COVES. A SENIOR HOD OFFICIAL, FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE DAVING THAT HE PERSONALLY CONSIDERS ON DEFLOYMENT TO EUROPE "A GOOD TOTAT, CA THERE THE AND POPLATE MADE PROPERTY PLANS CHIED MAXIMUM THE HERMANN FRANCE AS AT RAVE

LONDON 01076 2713462 HALF IN RECENT POPULS PLAINED THE "FEARE" HOVENENT FELINE OF THE FOULTH AND AND AN APPECED OUT BEGENNING OF THE LONG, AND THE POLICE CENTS

6. THE POINT IS WELL TAKEN. THE CAMPAIGN FOR MUCLEAR DISARMAMENT THRIVES ON DISTRUST OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PERCEPTION THAT THERE ARE FEW CONTROLS ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF EVER MORE FRIGHTENING U.S. WEAPONS TO USE ON A EUROPEAN DATTLEFIELD. A CW CONTROVERSY COULD WELL FUEL THIS SENTIMENT AND REVIVE A FLAGGING CHO--INGREASING OPPOSITION TO OUR DEFENSE POLICIES ACROSS THE LOARD AND PARTICULARLY TO THE DEPLOYMENTS.

7. VE CANNOT HOPE ENTIFELY TO DEFUSE THE ON LODUE REFE. BUT VE CAN HELP CONTAIN IT. SOME ACTIVITY IN THE CO CONTEXT WOULD BE RELPFUE, AS WOULD MORE EVIDENCE OF THE EXTENT OF SOVIET PROGRAMS. FOR THE REST, THE MORE SAID ABOUT DETERRENCE AND THE LESS ABOUT DEPLOYMENT THE BETTLE. REGARDING DETERRENCE, DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE PREVALENT PERCEPTICH HERE THAT HITLER WAS DETERRED FROM USING CH AGENTS CHLY BY HIS BELIEF THAT ALLIES . HAD CAPACITY TO RETALIATE. LOUIS

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1. (S- ENTIRE TEXT).

2. ALTHOUGH WE WELL UNDERSTAND THE DEFENSE RATIONALE BEHIND THE DECISION TO PRODUCE DINARY MUNITIONS, WE ARE FEARFUL THAT WE MAY WELL EE HEADING INTO A RED-HOT POLITICAL CONTROVERSY, SINILAR TO THE ONE THAT SURROUNCED ERV, SHOULD THAT DECISION BE FOLLOWED BY ONE TO FORWARD CEPLOY THE MUNITION IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. WITH THE EXCEPTION NOTED IN PARA 4 EELOW, CHEMICAL WEAPONS HAVE NOT YET EECOME A PUBLIC OR HEDIA ISSUE HERE, EUT WE ARE CONVINCED THAT IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME EEFCRE THE "PEACE MOVEMENT", WHICH IS EADLY IN HEED OF NEW SLOGANS, AND OTHER GROUPS

CONCERNED ABOUT THE MILITARY BUILD-UP IN EUROPE SEIZE THE ISSUE. INDEED, STORIES SUCH AS THE RECENT PINCUS ARTICLE LINKING CW AND GLCH HOT ONLY SERVE TO DRAW PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM BUT MAY VELL EE USED BY ANTI-INF ADVOCATES TO PRESSURE BOTH THE CHANCELLOR AND THE SPD/FDP CORLITION TO REASSESS THEIR PRESENTLY FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE DUAL-TRACK DECISION. EVEN WITH THE EEST OF MANAGEMENT, VE BELIEVE WE CANNOT AVOID SERIOUS POLITICAL STRAINS.

3. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EUR/CE DIRECTOR KORNBLUM, A SENIOR CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL WHO IS CLOSE TO THE CHANCELLOR HOENACK) SAID THAT UNLESS THE MATTER WERE CAREFULLY HANDLED, THE CW ISSUE COULD BE EVEN WORSE THAN THE ERW CONTROVERSY. OFFICIALS OF THE FOREIGH AND DEFENSE MINISTRIES HAVE EXPRESSED SINILAR CONCERNS. KOEYNCK VENTURED THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO TAKE A NEW AND SERIOUS ARMS CONTROL INITIATIVE REGARDING THE ELIMINATION OF CHEMICAL VEAPONS IN CODER TO CONTAIN THE ISSUE. ENRASSY COMMENT: WHILE HOEYNCK'S SUGGESTION FOR A TWO-TRACK APPEDACH ALA INF WAS PERSONAL, WE WOULD NOT DE AT ALL SURPRISED IF COMENNING ALONG THESE LINES BECOMES THE FRE POSITION. END COMMENT).

4. A FURTHER SIGN OF THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN THE FRG CONCERNING ON TURNED UP IN THE NEWS LATE LAST YEAR. BONN DIG71 DI OF D2 2517552 B2 IN PIRMASENS IN THE SOUTHWEST OF THE COUNTRY THE STATE (LAND) CHAIRMAN OF THE CONDINED LADOR UNIONS FILED SUIT AGAINST THE FEDERAL POLICY OF STOPHNS CHEMICAL MUNITIONS IN THE AREA, PARTICULARLY AT FISCHBACH.

THIS WEEK AN EMBAGSY SPD CONTACT REMINDED US OF THAT INCIDENT, AND POINTED OUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TRADE UNIONS TAKING THAT ACTION. HE, TOO, NOTED THAT THE RESISTANCE TO NEW OR ADDITIONAL OW STORAGE IN THE FRG WOULD EE ALNOST CERTAIN TO GROW.

S. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT IN DISCUSSING BINARY HUNITIONS THE VOSD MICOSPHIZATION BE AVOIDED IN ORDER TO AVOID THE INF PARALLEL BEING DRAWN AND THAT A VORD SUCH AS "PEPL ACENTIL" *RENEVAL" OR "EXCHANGE" BE SUCSTITUTED IN GROER TO MAKE CLEAR THAT CH STOCKS ALREADY EXIST IN EUROPE. WE WOULD ALSO SUGGEST THAT RATHER THAN REFERENCE TO PAST "NEGLECT" OF US ON CAPABILITY, VE SAY THAT THE US HAS EXERCISED TREATRAININ DECIDING SCHE YEARS AGO NOT TO PROCEED WITH BINARY PRODUCTION IN THE HOPE THAT THE CV REGOTIATIONS WITH THE USSR IN GENEVA WOULD BE FRUITFUL AND MAKE IT UNNECESSARY. IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO LAY THE ELAME FOR LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE REGOTIATIONS AT THE SOUTETO' DOD TONOFF OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IN DISCUSSING THE GREATER SAFETY OF BINARY WEAPONS VE BE CAREFUL TO AVOID INPLYING THAT THE VEAPOUS KON STORED IN THE FRO ARE UNCAFE. THEY ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE FACT THAT DIMARIES CAN, ONCE THEY ARE NO LONGER NEEDED, EE DESTROYED WITH MANY FEVER ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS WAS VOETA DISEBILING. VE ALSO SUGGEST PLACING ENFRACED ON THE DETERBENT VALUE OF FINARY VEAPOUS AND AVOIDING, INSCEAS AS POSSIBLE, COMMENTING ON FORSTELE RETALIATORY USE FINALLY, WE BELIEVE THAT FOCUSSING ATTENTION ON THE FACT THAT THE LARGEST PORTION OF OUR EXPENDITURES

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PASSIONS AND "ANTI-WAR" PROPAGANDISTS ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE SWAYED BY LOGIC ON THE CW ISSUE. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, OF COURSE, MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE CHANCELLOR'S ABILITY TO TAKE ON AN EMOTIONAL BINARY PROBLEM ALONG WITH THE HEAVY POLITICAL BURDENS HE IS BEARING ON INF. WE FEAR THAT HOENYCK'S CONCERN (PARA 3 ABOVE) THAT "THE CW ISSUE COULD BE EVEN WORSE THAN THE ERW CONTROVERSY" MAY BE ONLY TOO ACCURATE, IN WHICH CASE OUR PROBLEMS HAVE NOT YET BEGUN. END COMMENT. BURNS

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