

Texts of Nixon Statement on Chemical and Biological

Following are the texts of President Nixon's statement yesterday on the use of chemical and biological weapons, of the protocol prohibiting the use of chemical and biological weapons signed in Geneva in 1925 and of a British draft convention on biological weapons submitted to the Disarmament Conference in Geneva last summer:

Nixon Statement

Soon after taking office I directed a comprehensive study of our chemical and biological defense policies and programs. There had been no such review in over 15 years. As a result, objectives and policies in this field were unclear and programs lacked definition and direction.

Under the auspices of the National Security Council, the Departments of State and Defense, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, the Office of Science and Technology, the intelligence community and other agencies worked closely together on this study for over six months.

These Government efforts were aided by contributions from the scientific community through the President's Scientific Advisory Committee.

This study has now been completed and its findings carefully considered by the National Security Council. I am now reporting the decisions taken on the basis of this review.

CHEMICAL WARFARE PROGRAM

As to our chemical warfare program, the United States:

¶Reaffirms its oft-repeated renunciation of the first use of lethal chemical weapons.

¶Extends this renunciation to the first use of incapacitating chemicals.

Consonant with these decisions, the Administration will submit to the Senate, for its advice and consent to ratification, the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which prohibits the first use in war of "asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and bacteriological methods of warfare."

The United States has long supported the principles and objectives of this protocol. We take this step toward formal ratification to reinforce our continuing advocacy of international constraints on the use of these weapons.

BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

Biological weapons have massive, unpredictable and potentially uncontrollable consequences. They may produce global epidemics and impair the health of future generations. I have therefore decided that:

¶The U. S. shall renounce the use of lethal biological agents and weapons, and all other methods of biological warfare.

¶The U. S. will confine its biological research to defensive measures such as immunization and safety measures.

¶The D.O.D. has been asked to make recommendations as to the disposal of existing stocks of bacteriological weapons.

In the spirit of these decisions, the United States associates itself with the principles and objectives of the United Kingdom Draft Convention, which would ban the use of biological methods of warfare. We will seek, however, to clarify specific provisions of the draft to assure that necessary safeguards are included.

Neither our association with the convention nor the limiting of our program to research will leave us vulnerable to surprise by an enemy who does not observe these rational restraints.

Our intelligence community will continue to watch carefully the nature and extent of the biological programs of others.

These important decisions, which have been announced today, have been taken as an initiative toward peace. Mankind already carries in its own hands too many of the seeds of its own destruction. By the examples we set today, we hope to contribute to an atmosphere of peace and understanding between nations and among men.

Geneva Protocol

Protocol prohibiting the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of bacteriological methods of warfare, Geneva, June 17, 1925.

The undersigned plenipotentiaries, in the name of their respective Governments:

Whereas the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of all analogous liquids, materials or devices, has been justly condemned by the general opinion of the civilized world; and

Whereas the prohibition of such use has been declared in treaties to which the majority of powers of the world are parties; and

To the end that this prohibition shall be universally accepted as a part of International law, binding alike the conscience and the practice of nations;

Declare:

That the high contracting parties, so far as they are not already parties to treaties prohibiting such use, accept

this prohibition, agree to extend this prohibition to the use of bacteriological methods of warfare and agree to be bound as between themselves according to the terms of this declaration.

The high contracting parties will exert every effort to induce other states to accede to the present protocol. Such accession will be notified to the Government of the French Republic, and by the latter to all signatory and acceding powers, and will take effect on the date the notification by the Government of the French Republic.

The present protocol, of which the French and English texts are both authentic, shall be ratified as soon as possible. It shall bear to-day's date.

The ratifications of the present protocol shall be addressed to the Government of the French Republic, which will at once notify the deposit of such ratification to each of the signatory and acceding powers.

The instruments of ratification of and accession to the present protocol will remain deposited in the archives of the Government of the French Republic.

The present protocol will come into force for each signatory power as from the date of deposit of its ratification and, from that moment, each power will be bound as regards other powers which have already deposited their ratifications.

In witness whereof the plenipotentiaries have signed the present protocol.

Done at Geneva in a single copy, this 17th day of June, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Five.

[Signatory countries were: Germany, United States of America, Austria, Brazil, British Empire, Canada, India,

War, of the Geneva Protocol and of British Plan

Chile, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Abyssinia, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Nicaragua, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Salvador, Switzerland, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Turkey, Uruguay.] The United States never ratified.

British Convention

Draft convention of the prohibition of biological methods of warfare with associated draft security council resolution tabled by the United Kingdom in the conference of the 18-nation committee on disarmament in Geneva on 10 July, 1969.

The states concluding this convention, hereinafter referred to as the "Parties to the Convention,"

Recalling that many states have become parties to the protocol for the prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of bacteriological methods of warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June, 1925,

Recognizing the contribution that the said protocol has already made, and continues to make, to mitigating the horrors of war,

Recalling further United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 2162B (XXI) of 5 December, 1966 and 2454 A (XXIII) of 20 December, 1968, which called for strict observance by all states of the principles and objectives of the Geneva Protocol and invited all states to accede to it,

Believing that chemical and biological discoveries should be used only for the betterment of human life,

Recognizing nevertheless that the development of scientific knowledge throughout the world will increase the

risk of eventual use of biological methods of warfare,

Convinced that such use would be repugnant to the conscience of mankind and that no effort should be spared to minimize this risk,

Desiring therefore to reinforce the Geneva Protocol by the conclusion of a convention making special provision in this field,

Declaring their belief that, in particular, provision should be made for the prohibition of recourse to biological methods of warfare in any circumstances,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

Each of the parties to the convention undertakes never in any circumstances, by making use for hostile purposes of microbial or other biological agents causing death or disease by infection or infestation in man, other animals, or crops, to engage in biological methods of warfare.

ARTICLE II

Each of the parties to the convention undertakes

(a) Not to produce or otherwise acquire, or assist in or permit the production or acquisition of

(i) Microbial or other biological agents of types and in quantities that have no independent peaceful justification for prophylactic or other purposes;

(ii) Ancillary equipment or vectors the purpose of which is to facilitate the use of such agents for hostile purposes;

(b) Not to conduct, assist or permit research aimed at production of the kind prohibited in subparagraph (a) of this article; and

(c) to destroy, or direct to peaceful purposes, within three months after the convention comes into force for

that party, any stocks in its possession of such agents or ancillary equipment or vectors as have been produced or otherwise acquired for hostile purposes.

ARTICLE III

1. Any party to the convention which believes that biological methods of warfare have been used against it may lodge a complaint with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, submitting all evidence at its disposal in support of the complaint, and request that the complaint be investigated and that a report on the result of the investigation be submitted to the Security Council.

2. Any party to the convention which believes that another party has acted in breach of its undertakings under Articles I and II of the convention, but which is not entitled to lodge a complaint under paragraph 1 of this article, may similarly lodge a complaint with the Security Council and request that the complaint be investigated.

3. Each of the parties to the convention undertakes to cooperate fully with the Secretary General and his authorized representatives in any investigation he may carry out, as a result of a complaint, in accordance with Security Council Resolution No.

ARTICLE IV

Each of the parties to the convention affirms its intention to provide or support appropriate assistance, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, to any other party to the convention, if the Security Council concludes that biological methods of warfare have been used against that party.

ARTICLE V

Each of the parties to the convention undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures to strengthen the existing constraints on the use of chemical methods of warfare.

ARTICLE VI

Nothing contained in the present convention shall be construed as in any way limiting or derogating from obligations assumed by any state under the protocol for the prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of bacteriological methods of warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June, 1925.

ARTICLE VII

[Provisions for amendments]

ARTICLE VIII

[Provisions for signature, ratification, entry into force, etc.]

ARTICLE IX

1. This convention shall be of unlimited duration.

2. Each party shall in exercising its national sovereignty have the right to withdraw from the convention, if it decides that extraordinary events, related to the subject matter of this convention, have jeopardized the supreme interests of its country. It shall give notice of such withdrawal to all other parties to the convention and to the United Nations Security Council three months in advance. Such notice shall include a statement of the extraordinary events it regards as having jeopardized its supreme interests.

ARTICLE X

[Provisions on language of texts, etc.]