Washington .

The Army has plans to manufacture a "binary" nerve gas, composed of two relatively harmless chemicals that mix to become_lethal_only_afterthey are fired at a target.

The U.S. has renounced the use of nerve gas and other chemical weapons, but according to the Army Tuesday maintains a "deterrent Congress. maintains a

stockpile" in case another country uses them first.

First word of the decision. came yesterday from Representative Les Aspin (Dem-Wis.), a persistent critic of Pentagon spending. Representative F. Edward Hebert, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said Aspin learned about it in an Army letter sent last Tuesday to all members of

spokesman said one of the chemicals, similar to a home pesticide, would be storing nerve gas munitions. manufactured and loaded into artillery shells at the Pine Bluff, Ark., arsenal. The second chemical purchased commercially, would have to be added to the. shell on the battlefield before firing, he said.

The major reason given for producing the binary gas, according to the Army, the balance of terror," not is to reduce the danger of the elimination of the dan-

The letter said develop-ment of the binary gas "will permit the disposal of present stocks of nerve agent as they are replaced by the binaries."

Existing nerve gas munitions, stored in Colorado and Utah, are lethal at all times.

Aspin said "the real issue here is a major escalation of

ger from stored nerve gas munitions.

Hebert, a persistent Pentagon defender, called Aspin's remark "demago-guery" and said that "if Mr. Aspin has any evidence or can document any wrongdoing in this particular in-stance, then again I say 'put up or shut up'."

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