

Army Accused of Trying For Outlawed Nerve Gas

Washington

Despite the Senate's ratification of the 1925 Geneva protocol outlawing chemical warfare, the Army is advertising for manufacturers of deadly binary nerve gas, Representative Les Aspin (Dem-Wis.) charged yesterday.

In a statement, Aspin, member of the House Armed Services Committee and a former Pentagon economic adviser also said the Army is violating the Defense Appropriation Act, which eliminated \$5.8 million for the production of this form of chemical war-

fare.

Binary nerve gas is produced when two relatively harmless chemical compounds are mixed. The two agents are delivered in an artillery shell in which the mixing process takes place during flight.

The Army had no immediate comment on Aspin's charge.

But presumably it contends it must have a gas to use in retaliation should an enemy violate the Geneva protocol.

Aspin said the December 11 issue of Commerce Business Daily, a government

publication, contained solicitations by the Army's Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland for producers of "ton quantities" of dimethyl polysulfide and ethyl 2-diisopronylamin-oethyl.

A third notice, inserted by Edgewood's director of procurement, sought manufacturers for "artillery projectiles filled with a nontoxic chemical solution."

"The Army either intends to ignore its orders, or it plans to convince Congress to change the law against producing a new family of poison gas munitions," Aspin said.

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