

U.S. Restores Sentence to a Nixon Text on Arms

By THOMAS J. HAMILTON

Special to The New York Times

GENEVA, July 30—An important sentence from President Nixon's message to the Geneva disarmament conference asserting that "the specter of chemical and bacteriological warfare arouses horror and revulsion throughout the world" was deleted before the message was read to the conference.

The deletion became known today when the conference secretariat, at the request of the United States delegation, issued a revised text of the President's message containing this sentence.

The correction carried the notation that "for technical reasons" the document had been issued to replace the previous text. That text was issued July 3, when Mr. Nixon's message was read at the opening of the summer session by James F. Leonard, head of the United States delegation.

According to a Western source, the omission of the sentence was only the latest sign of a struggle in Washington between the Pentagon and other Government agencies over the American attitude toward the prohibition of both bacteriological and chemical weapons.

The Defense Department, another source said, is determined to block any disarmament agreement that would require it to stop using tear gas in South Vietnam.

Laird Statement Recalled

On Monday, it was noted, Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird said in Washington that the United States must maintain a stock of chemical and biological warfare agents as a deterrent against their use by other countries.

Several delegates cited also the recent disclosure that the United States had stored a large quantity of nerve gases on Okinawa. Japan protested the presence of the gases, and they have been removed. The protest followed an incident in which 24 Americans on Okinawa were briefly hospitalized, apparently because of an accident involving the gas.

Specter of Gas and Germ War Arouses World Revulsion, He Tells Geneva Parley

One delegate said that the omission of the sentence had strengthened the impression here that the Nixon Administration was at least unenthusiastic about imposing international controls over these weapons.

Silent on British Plan

A number of conference delegates had already come to that conclusion as a result of the refusal of the United States to take a stand on a British draft convention that would prohibit the development, production, possession or use of biological weapons under any circumstances. At the same time the United States is still holding out against acceding to the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which it signed but did not ratify. This bars the use of poison gas or bacteriological weapons.

The message as read to the conference, said that the United States welcomed a recent study by Secretary General Thant that emphasized the lethal properties of both chemical and bacteriological weapons.

But on the question of their prohibition, Mr. Nixon limited himself to the statement that the United States delegation here "is prepared to examine carefully, together with other delegations any approaches that offer the prospect of reliable arms control in this field."

United States sources said tonight that two drafts of Mr. Nixon's message to the conference, one containing the denunciation of bacteriological and chemical warfare, the other not had been circulating among the Washington agencies concerned with disarmament. The sources said that although Mr. Nixon had approved the draft containing the sentence, the other draft "somehow" was cabled here for delivery. Meanwhile, however, the approved text was issued by the White

House staff in Key Biscayne, Fla.

Asked why the United States delegation did not request the correction of the President's text until July 23, these sources said that the delegation noticed that dispatches from Key Biscayne had referred to the missing sentence. They did not explain why three weeks elapsed before the correction was requested.

Although London has kept Washington informed about its proposal to ban biological weapons, the Nixon Administration has still not taken a position. Last week Mr. Leonard told the conference that "we are not clear in our own minds whether it would be desirable to conclude a separate measure relating only to biological weapons," but that the United States felt the proposal should be studied carefully.

At the same time, however, United States sources have expressed opposition to the only other proposal in this area before the conference, a Polish working paper recommending that the United Nations appeal to all states to sign the Geneva protocol.

Washington's opposition, it was explained, derives from the fact that the Polish proposal reproduced Secretary Thant's recent recommendation that the United Nations issue a declaration interpreting the protocol as banning "tear gas and other harassing agents."

According to these sources, the United States is complying with the protocol, as shown by the fact that it has voted in the United Nations General Assembly for resolutions appealing for compliance with it. However, the United States does not interpret the protocol's ban on "asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases" as applying to tear gas.

Brother Drills Brother

FORT LEWIS, Wash. (AP)—Pvt. Duane Lively of Fremont, Neb., sent here for his basic training, was assigned to a company in which his brother, Sgt. George Lively, recently returned from Korea, had just become a combat instructor.