

War to Peace at Chemical Lab

Washington

President Nixon announced yesterday that the biological warfare facilities at the Pine Bluff Arsenal in Arkansas will be turned into a national research center to investigate the harmful effects of chemicals on man.

The National Center for Toxicological Research, as it will be known, will be operated by the Food and Drug Administration and will begin occupying the facilities as they are phased out by the Army.

Destruction of germ warfare agents at the Pine Bluff facility will require at least a year. The laboratories and biological production facilities are expected to be vacat-

ed entirely by June 30, 1973, the White House said.

The changeover from biological warfare to toxicological research follows the President's renunciation of germ warfare on Nov. 25, 1969. At that time, Mr. Nixon said the United States biological warfare program would be confined to research for defensive purposes only.

The center will study the effects on mankind of chemical substances such as pesticides, food additives and therapeutic drugs. In addition, the White House said, research will be undertaken to determine the effects on persons who are exposed over long periods of time to low doses of chemicals.

Associated Press