

A Selective Ban On Chemical Arms Urged by Sweden

~~MAR 10 1971~~

Special to The New York Times

GENEVA, March 9—Sweden recommended today that the 25-nation disarmament conference prohibit chemical and bacteriological weapons on a sliding scale, depending upon how deadly they are and whether their components have any peaceful use.

Mrs. Alva Myrdal, the Swedish delegate, said that nerve gases and mustard gas, which she said were "supertoxic" and had no peacetime uses, and toxins should be unconditionally banned.

Such chemicals as hydrogen cyanide, phosgene, tear gases and defoilants have peaceful uses as insecticides and herbicides, she said, and only their wartime applications should be prohibited.

Answering complaints by delegates of nonaligned countries that virtually nothing was being accomplished on actual disarmament, James F. Leonard of the United States said that the prohibition of biological weapons, would constitute "the first true measure of disarmament this body would have negotiated." He said that he saw "no practical prospect for early progress" on a combined treaty.