

18 November 1971

Rick Gilmore
Office of Senator Humphrey
Old Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Rick,

You will notice that the Canadian statement does not specifically say that herbicides and riot gas are prohibited by the Protocol. What the statement does say is that Canada renounces the use of riot gas and herbicides. The draft letter to Rogers reflects this.

Warm, best wishes,

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Dear Mr. Secretary,

It has recently come to my attention that the government of Canada, after extended study of the issues, has, in effect, publicly renounced any use in war of chemical and biological weapons, including riot control agents and herbicides. (Statement of H.E. Mr. George Ignatieff in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, 16 November 1971.)

As you know, Mr. Secretary, I have strongly supported attempts to bring chemical and biological weapons under control and toward that end I have advocated that the United States renounce the first use of all chemical and biological weapons without making special exceptions for riot gas and herbicides. Therefore, I was most interested in the recent decision of our long-term ally and neighbor to the north along these lines. I am writing to you to request whatever information may be available to the Department regarding the considerations that led Canada to the decisions it has taken.

Sincerely yours,