



Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K2

November 19, 1971

Professor J.C. Polanyi, M.Sc., Ph.D., D.Sc.,
Chemistry Department,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Professor Polanyi:

You will, I am sure, have read of Ambassador George Ignatieff's announcement to the United Nations General Assembly with respect to the use of non-lethal agents in wartime. I thought that you would be interested in the full details of the statement, and am therefore attaching a copy of his text.

As far as I am concerned it was your advocacy of this change which persuaded me to recommend it to my colleagues. I want to thank you for the concern which you have shown about this question and for the responsible way in which you have presented the case.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Macdonald".

Donald S. Macdonald

NOV 23 1971

Text of a Statement of Canada's Position on
Chemical and Biological Warfare,
delivered at the United Nations General Assembly
on November 16, 1971

In negotiating the draft treaty before us now, the Canadian delegation provided the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament on March 24, 1970, with a declaration of Canadian policy and intentions with respect to chemical and biological warfare. This we did in the belief, not that it could in any effective way substitute for a binding international convention, but that it could assist in the development of a consensus upon which further negotiations might be based. In that statement of the Canadian position, tear gas and other riot and crowd control agents were excluded from Canada's commitment not to develop, produce, acquire, stockpile or use any chemical weapons in warfare. This matter has in the meantime been given the most careful study by the Canadian authorities, and they have concluded that, as a contribution to further progress towards international agreement on the elimination of chemical warfare, Canada's reservation with regard to the use of these agents in war should be waived. Accordingly, Mr. Chairman, I would like to read the following statement of Canada's position:

"The Government of Canada intends to contribute fully to the efforts of the United Nations and of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to reduce and, if possible, eliminate the possibility of chemical and biological warfare. Canada intends to participate actively in negotiations towards agreements which would supplement and strengthen the Geneva Protocol of 1925 by prohibiting the development, production and stockpiling of chemical and biological weapons. Practical progress need not wait until the conclusion of these negotiations. The Protocol can be strengthened significantly through unilateral declarations of policy and intentions on the issues involved. For this purpose, the Government of Canada wishes to make known its attitude toward chemical and biological warfare.

"1. Canada never has had and does not now possess any biological weapons (or toxins), and does not intend to develop, produce, acquire, stockpile or use such weapons at any time in the future.

"2. Canada does not possess any chemical weapons other than the devices of the type used for crowd and riot control purposes in many countries. Canada does not intend at any time in the future to use chemical weapons in war, or to develop, produce, acquire or stockpile such weapons for use in warfare, unless these weapons should be used against the military forces or the civil population of Canada or its allies. The latter condition is in accordance with the reservations Canada entered at the time of our ratification of the Geneva Protocol of 1925. We would consider formally withdrawing our reservations if effective and verifiable agreements to destroy all stockpiles and prevent

the development, production and acquisition of chemical weapons can be concluded."

I believe it is quite clear, Mr. Chairman, that this statement applies to the use in war of all chemical and biological agents whether intended for use against persons, animals, or plants.