

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES
NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS—ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE: UNATIONS NEWYORK

REFERENCE:

3 December 1971

PERSONAL

Dear Matt,

Thanks very much for your letter of 23 November.

There is no doubt whatsoever that Canada now views herbicides and riot gas as prohibited by the Geneva Protocol, or at the very least prohibited for use by Canada in war. There is a rather complicated internal explanation for the very turgid and somewhat vague statement issued by the Government in this regard, but there is no doubt whatsoever that it is intended to bar the use of tear gas and herbicides. I have this on the most direct authority both from New York and Ottawa.

Perhaps you might write to Polanyi and get him to write an article for one of the Canadian newspapers, as he did before, which could become the basis for having the decision made more widely known. Also it is possible that there was an announcement and some discussion of the matter in the House of Commons in Canada which would be available in Hansard.

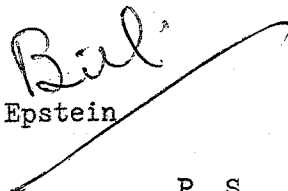
As requested, I am enclosing herewith the following material:

1. Extracts from statements by Canada, Mexico, Sweden, Byelorussian SSR, Norway and Tanzania, all of whom reiterated the official UN position on the interpretation of the Geneva Protocol.
2. A copy of the draft resolutions dealing with the CBW.
3. Marked copies of the records of the First Committee containing substantive comments on the question of CBW.

Japan is being very cautious, as usual, and has taken no position at all on the interpretation or the scope of the Geneva Protocol at this session. I cannot make an intelligent assessment as to whether we can look forward to some movement on their part. Privately, they give vent to all the correct views.

With best wishes and warm regards,

Yours,


William Epstein

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P. S. Item No. 3 above containing the records is being sent by separate cheaper mail.

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