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RECEIVED KEY BISCAYNE COMCEN
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FM GENERAL AL HAIG
TO HENRY A. KISSINGER
RON ZIEGLER
ZEM
SECRET NODIS WH00279

DELIVER TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER, KEY BISCAYNE
RON ZIEGLER

FROM: GZNERAL AL HAIG

THE FOLLOWING IS THE DRAFT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON TOXINS AND SUGGESTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR ZIEGLER'S USE IN RELEASING THE STATEMENT:

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DRAFT STATEMENT

ON NOVEMBER 25, 1969, THE PRESIDENT RENOUNCED ALL OFFENSIVE PREPARATIONS FOR AND ANY USE BY THE UNITED STATES OF BIOLOGICAL OR BACTERIOLOGICAL AGENTS AND WEAPONS IN WAR. SINCE THAT DECISION, AT THE DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT, A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF UNITED STATES POLICY AND MILITARY PROGRAMS CONCERNING TOXINS HAS BEEN IN PROGRESS.

THE REVIEW RECOGNIZED THAT TOXINS ARE CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES. THEY ARE SO RECOGNIZED IN THE REPORT OF THE U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL, BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND BY THE INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMUNITY. TOXINS ARE NOT LIVING ORGANISMS AND ARE NOT CAPABLE OF REPRODUCING THEMSELVES. THUS, ALTHOUGH THE EFFECTS OF SOME TOXINS ARE COMMONLY DESCRIBED AS DISEASE, THEY DO NOT CAUSE CONTAGIOUS DISEASE AND ARE NOT TRANSMISSIBLE FROM ONE PERSON TO ANOTHER.

THE PRODUCTION IN ANY SIGNIFICANT QUANTITY OF TOXINS DEVELOPED THROUGH BACTERIOLOGICAL OR ANY OTHER BIOLOGICAL PROCESS OF THE SAME GENERAL TYPE, HOWEVER, WOULD REQUIRE FACILITIES SIMILAR TO THOSE REQUIRED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF BIOLOGICAL AGENTS AND WEAPONS. IF THE UNITED STATES OPERATED SUCH FACILITIES, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR OTHERS TO KNOW WHETHER SUCH FACILITIES WERE BEING USED TO PRODUCE ONLY TOXINS BUT NOT BIOLOGICAL AGENTS. MOREOVER, THOUGH TOXINS OF THE TYPE CONSIDERED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES COULD CONCEIVABLY BE PRODUCED BY CHEMICAL SYNTHESIS IN THE FUTURE, THE END PRODUCTS WOULD BE THE SAME AND THEIR EFFECTS WOULD BE INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM TOXINS PRODUCED BY BACTERIOLOGICAL OR OTHER BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES.

ACCORDINGLY, THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED:

- THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL RENOUNCE OFFENSIVE PREPARATIONS FOR AND THE USE OF TOXINS AS A METHOD OF WARFARE; AND
- THAT THE UNITED STATES HENCEFORTH WILL CONFINE ITS MILITARY PROGRAMS FOR TOXINS, WHETHER PRODUCED BY BACTERIOLOGICAL OR ANY OTHER BIOLOGICAL METHOD OR BY CHEMICAL SYNTHESIS, TO RESEARCH FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES ONLY, SUCH AS TO IMPROVE TECHNIQUES OF IMMUNIZATION AND MEDICAL THERAPY.

THE PRESIDENT HAS FURTHER DIRECTED THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL EXISTING TOXIN WEAPONS AND OF ALL EXISTING STOCKS OF TOXINS WHICH ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR A STRICTLY DEFINED RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES ONLY.

UNDER THIS PROGRAM, THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE NO NEED TO OPERATE ANY SECRET FACILITIES CAPABLE OF PRODUCING TOXINS EITHER BACTERIOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY, IN LARGE QUANTITIES AND HENCE ALSO CAPABLE OF PRODUCING BIOLOGICAL AGENTS.

~~IN MAKING THESE DECISIONS THE PRESIDENT RECOGNIZED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN THE FUTURE TO DEVELOP TOXINS BY CHEMICAL SYNTHESIS. BUT THESE TOO HAVE BEEN RENOUNCED BECAUSE THE EFFECTS OF TOXINS ARE POPULARLY ASSOCIATED WITH DISEASE AND THE EFFECTS OF A TOXIN ARE THE SAME WHETHER IT IS PRODUCED BY BIOLOGICAL ORGANISMS OR~~

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By AB NARA Date 1/2/03

THESE DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN WITH FULL CONFIDENCE THAT THEY ARE IN ACCORD WITH THE OVERALL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES. THESE DECISIONS ALSO UNDERLINE THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE U.K. DRAFT CONVENTION. THE UNITED STATES HOPES THAT OTHER NATIONS WILL FOLLOW OUR EXAMPLE WITH RESPECT TO BOTH BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS. AS THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 25, 1969, WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD EFFECTIVE ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS IN THESE AREAS.

QUESTION:

JUST WHAT IS A TOXIN?

ANSWER:

TOXINS ARE POISONOUS SUBSTANCES OF MICROBIAL, VEGETABLE OR ANIMAL ORIGIN. THEY BELONG TO THE CLASS OF CHEMICALS KNOWN AS NATURAL PRODUCTS IN THE SENSE THAT THEY ARE PRODUCED IN NATURE BY BIOLOGICAL OR BACTERIOLOGICAL PROCESSES. EXAMPLES ARE BOTULINUS TOXIN, TETANUS, SHELLFISH POISON, AND SNAKE VENOM.

QUESTION:

ARE NERVE AGENTS PRODUCED IN NATURE? OR, IF THEY WERE FOUND TO BE SO PRODUCED IN NATURE WOULD THEY THEN BE CONSIDERED A TOXIN AND RENOUNCED?

ANSWER:

THE OTHER CHEMICALS YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE SO PRODUCED IN NATURE, AND OUR SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS CONSIDER IT UNLIKELY THEY WOULD BE. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, ADDRESS THAT QUESTION IF IT EVER ARISES.

QUESTION:

DO OTHER NATIONS HAVE MILITARY TOXINS PROGRAMS?

ANSWER:

THE EXTENT OF OUR INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER IS, OF COURSE CLASSIFIED. THE DECISION WAS REACHED, HOWEVER, ONLY AFTER CAREFULLY CONSIDERING ALL OF THE ASPECTS, INCLUDING OUR INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF OTHER NATIONS.

QUESTION:

WERE THE VIEW OF THE MILITARY CONSIDERED?

ANSWER:

THE VIEW OF THE MILITARY WERE, OF COURSE, CONSIDERED. THE DECISION TOOK OUR SECURITY NEEDS AND THE WEAPONS SYSTEMS AVAILABLE TO US FULLY INTO ACCOUNT.

QUESTION:

THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THAT TOXINS CAUSE WHAT IS POPULARLY THOUGHT OF AS DISEASE. DO THEY OR DO THEY NOT CAUSE DISEASE?

ANSWER:

SOME TOXINS, PARTICULARLY THE BACTERIAL TOXINS, HAVE LONG BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH DISEASE. NONE, HOWEVER, CAUSE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES. FOR EXAMPLE, BOTULISM WHICH IS CAUSED BY A TOXIN IS CONSIDERED A DISEASE EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE -- IT IS NOT TRANSMISSIBLE FROM MAN TO MAN.

ON THE OTHER HAND, NOT ALL TOXINS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH DISEASE. I HAVE HEARD NO ONE SUGGEST THAT A PERSON BITTEN BY A SNAKE HAS CAUGHT A DISEASE, ALTHOUGH THE SNAKE VENOM IS A TOXIN TECHNICALLY.

QUESTION:

DO ANY OTHER OF OUR CHEMICAL WEAPONS CAUSE DISEASE?

ANSWER:

OTHER CHEMICAL WEAPONS HAVE NOT BEEN AND ARE NOT GENERALLY ASSOCIATED WITH DISEASE.

QUESTION:

IF YOU HAVE DECIDED TO RENOUNCE ONE CLASS OF CHEMICAL AGENTS, WHY DO WE NEED ANY CHEMICAL WEAPONS AT ALL? WHY NOT RENOUNCE ALL CHEMICAL WEAPONS?

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WE HAVE RENOUNCED TOXINS BECAUSE WE DO NOT CONSIDER THEM NECESSARY TO OUR OVERALL SECURITY.

THE UNITED STATES HAS FIRMLY RENOUNCED THE FIRST USE OF ALL LETHAL AND INCAPACITATING CHEMICAL WEAPONS. AS ANNOUNCED, WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARDS EFFECTIVE ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS IN THESE AREAS. UNTIL SUCH EFFECTIVE ARMS AGREEMENTS ARE REACHED AND OTHER NATIONS JOIN IN THIS ENDEAVOUR AND RENOUNCE THEIR CAPABILITIES TO EMPLOY CHEMICAL WEAPONS, IT IS IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST TO MAINTAIN A CAPABILITY FOR DETERRENT AND RETALIATORY PURPOSES.

QUESTION:

IS THIS NOT A FORM OF UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT AND WHY DOES IT NOT ENDANGER OUR NATIONAL SECURITY?

ANSWER:

AFTER CAREFULLY EXAMINING OUR SECURITY NEEDS AND THE MEANS AVAILABLE TO MEET THESE NEEDS, WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT TOXINS ARE NOT NECESSARY TO OUR OVERALL DEFENSIVE POSTURE AND PROGRAMS.

WE HAVE URGED THAT OTHERS FOLLOW OUR EXAMPLE AND BELIEVE THAT THIS STEP WILL ENHANCE THE PROSPECT FOR EFFECTIVE ARMS CONTROL MEASURES IN THIS FIELD.

QUESTION

DO WE CHEMICALLY SYNTHESIZE TOXINS TODAY?

ANSWER:

SOME TOXINS, SUCH AS ALCOHOL, WHICH ARE NOT CONSIDERED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, HAVE BEEN SYNTHESIZED AND ARE OFTEN PRODUCED BY CHEMICAL SYNTHESIS. HOWEVER, THE TOXINS WHICH HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED ONLY BY BACTERIOLOGICAL OR BIOLOGICAL MEANS.

QUESTION:

CAN THE TOXINS IN THE MILITARY PROGRAM BE SYNTHESIZED AND, IF SO, WILL WE CARRY OUT A PROGRAM FOR THEIR SYNTHESIS?

ANSWER:

OUR BEST SCIENTIFIC ADVICE IS THAT SOME OF THE TOXINS PROBABLY CAN BE AND MAY BE SYNTHESIZED IN THE FUTURE. THIS PROBABLY IS NOT TRUE OF THE MORE COMPLEX TOXINS.

AS STATED, THE TOXIN PROGRAM WILL BE FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES ONLY. ANY SYNTHESIS WILL BE FOR DEFENSIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

QUESTION:

DOES THIS MEAN THAT WE WILL CLOSE THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES AT FORT DETRICK OR THE BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTION FACILITIES AT PINE BLUFF?

ANSWER:

AS THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED, THE UNITED STATES WILL MAINTAIN A RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES ONLY. WE HAVE BEEN IN THE PROCESS OF EXAMINING WAYS IN WHICH THE FACILITY AT FORT DETRICK CAN BEST BE USED IN THIS PROGRAM AND ALSO TO FURTHER OUR MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

WITH RESPECT TO THE BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTION FACILITY AT PINE BLUFF, THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD OPERATE NO SUCH FACILITY IN SECRET. WE ARE ALSO IN THE PROCESS OF EXAMINING ALTERNATE PEACEFUL PURPOSES WHICH THESE FACILITIES MIGHT SERVE.

QUESTION:

WHEN YOU SAY THAT THE BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTION FACILITIES AT PINE BLUFF WILL BE CLOSED, DOES THIS MEAN THAT THEY WILL BE DESTROYED OR SIMPLY PLACED IN LAY-AWAY?

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ANSWER:

AS I STATED, WE ARE HOPING THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO FIND PRODUCTIVE PEACEFUL USES FOR THESE FACILITIES. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ARE CAREFULLY LOOKING INTO THIS MATTER WITH OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES OR DEPARTMENTS.

QUESTION:

HOW WILL THIS DECISION AFFECT OUR POSITION ON THE UK DRAFT CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL WARFARE?

ANSWER:

AS THE PRESIDENT STATED, THE DECISION UNDERLINES OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE UK DRAFT CONVENTION, AND GOES ONE STEP FURTHER.

THE UK DRAFT CONVENTION PROHIBITS BIOLOGICAL MEANS OF WARFARE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW TOXINS, WHICH ARE CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, WOULD BE CONSIDERED A BIOLOGICAL METHOD OF WARFARE. BRITISH OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED THIS VIEW. THE FACT THAT MANY TOXINS ARE PRODUCED BACTERIOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY, HOWEVER, INTRODUCES AN AREA OF AMBIGUITY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DECISION WILL PERMIT US TO INTERPRET THE CONVENTION SO THAT TOXINS PRODUCED BY BIOLOGICAL MEANS ARE INCLUDED. THUS, THERE WILL BE NO AMBIGUITY IN OUR POSITION AS TO WHAT IS COVERED BY THE CONVENTION.

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