

To Bothe  
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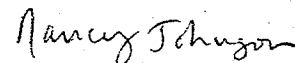
March 26, 1986

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Dear Dr. Bothe:

This is in response to your letter of  
January 21 to Professor Matthew Meselson.  
I hope the enclosed materials will be of help.

Yours truly,



Nancy Johnson  
Assistant to Matthew  
Meselson

**CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE DEVELOPMENTS: 1985**

This preprint is being  
circulated for information  
and criticism. Comments  
would be most gratefully  
received.



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\* Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Sweden. To be  
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**CONTENTS**

Introduction.....	1
<b>I Alleged infractions of the CBW arms-control regime.....</b>	<b>3</b>
Allegations of activities proscribed under the 1972 Convention.....	4
Allegations of use of CBW weapons.....	6
The Gulf War CW reports, 1985.....	6
Yellow Rain.....	11
<b>II CW armament.....</b>	<b>14</b>
The United States and other NATO countries.....	14
The US binary-munitions programme.....	15
NATO CW armament?.....	30
The Soviet Union and other WTO countries.....	35
Countries outside NATO and WTO.....	40
<b>III Strengthening the CBW arms-control regime.....</b>	<b>45</b>
The existing CBW arms-control treaties.....	46
Extending the regime.....	48
<b>IV Other events during 1985.....</b>	<b>53</b>
Agent Orange and related matters.....	53
Old CW weapons.....	56
Historical studies.....	58
<b>V Documentary annex.....</b>	<b>61</b>
1985 US legislation on CW programmes.....	61
SED/SPD European CW weapon-free zone proposal.....	67
<b>VI Bibliography.....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Tables</b>	
1. Allegations during 1985 of activities outlawed by the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention.....	5
2. Allegations during 1985 of use of CBW weapons.....	8
3. The United States CW programme: funding sought in the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 1986.....	16
4. Excerpts from the report of the President's Chemical Warfare Review Commission.....	17
5. US holdings of lethal chemical weapons: estimates from open sources.....	20
6. 1985 actions of the US Congress on the binary-munitions programme as proposed by the Administration for Fiscal Year 1986.....	24
7. Some of the commercial corporations thus far involved in the US binary-munitions production programme.....	27
8. Status of US facilities for full-scale production of binary munitions as of late 1985.....	28
9. CW-weapon proliferation, 1915-84: a US Defense Department view.....	41
10. Chemicals used by US forces in Viet Nam and neighbouring regions, 1961-71.....	54

Table 5. US holdings of lethal chemical weapons: estimates from open sources

Item	Number held	Short tons of chemical fill
<u>Munitions now obsolete, deteriorated beyond repair or for weapons no longer in service</u>		
115-mm rockets	480 000	2 500
155-mm gun rounds, landmines, leakers and unrepairables	320 000	1 400
<u>Bulk agent held for filling new or re-usable munitions</u>		
1-ton drums of non-persistent nerve agent GB	5 700	4 300
1-ton drums of persistent nerve agent VX	2 300	1 800
1-ton drums of mustard gas (persistent)	14 000	12 600
<u>Persistent-agent munitions for ground weapons</u>		
For in-service but obsolescent weapons:		
-- 4.2-in mortar rounds, mustard filled	470 000	1 400
-- 105-mm howitzer rounds, mustard filled	480 000	700
For modern in-service weapons:		
-- 155-mm howitzer rounds, mustard filled	300 000	1 700
-- 155-mm and 8-in howitzer rounds, VX filled	300 000	950
<u>Nonpersistent-agent munitions for ground weapons</u>		
For in-service but obsolescent weapons:		
-- 105-mm howitzer rounds, GB filled	900 000	750
For modern in-service weapons:		
-- 155-mm and 8-in howitzer rounds, GB filled	200 000	850
-- 155-mm howitzer rounds, binary GB	<u>Planned<sup>b</sup>: 1200 000<sup>a</sup></u>	5 100

Table 5 (continued)

Item	Number held	Short tons of chemical fill
<u>Aircraft munitions</u>		
For in-service but obsolescent weapons:		
-- 2000-lb spraytanks, VX filled	900	630
For modern in-service weapons:		
-- 500-lb and 750-lb bombs, GB filled	13 000	1 300
-- 500-lb spraybombs, binary VX	<u>Planned<sup>b</sup>: 44 000</u>	4 100

Source: Estimated from collated data published by the US Defense Department.

Notes

<sup>a</sup> In 1983, the Army's acquisition objective for the 155-mm GB2 projectile, as authorized by the Congress, had been 410 000 rounds [210]. That, however, would have been the objective for equipment of US forces only. In March 1984, the Congress was told by the Army that 'the current stockpile of GB artillery munitions represents approximately 20 per cent of our identified requirement'; acquisition of the 155-mm GB2 round would close this 'critical operational gap' [182].

<sup>b</sup> The numbers given here show what appeared during 1985 to be the Administration's current acquisition objective.