

Mikulak

14 October 1990

To the Hilliard Roderick Prize Committee:

I wish to nominate Dr. Robert P. Mikulak, Physical Science Officer at the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, for this year's Hilliard Roderick Prize.

The signal achievement I wish to highlight in this nomination is Mikulak's central role in designing and negotiating the new US-Soviet bilateral agreement for mutual verified destruction of the greater part of both country's chemical weapons stocks and for the complete cessation of any further production of such weapons. In this effort, he played two essential roles at once -- as technical expert, idea source, and policy former in Washington and as trusted negotiator with the Soviets in Geneva, Moscow and elsewhere. Together with his Soviet counterpart, he is responsible for much of the immense amount of work that has gone into preparing the detailed verification protocol that will accompany the agreement.

Prior to this most recent achievement, Mikulak has played a key role in nearly every bilateral and multilateral chemical weapons diplomatic meeting and negotiation in which the United States has participated. These include the many meetings of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament/Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, its numerous "expert sessions", UNGA First Committee efforts, and all of the US-Soviet bilateral negotiations of the Carter, Reagan, and Bush Administrations.

In the area of biological weapons arms control, Mikulak was the principal architect and negotiator, with his Soviet counterpart, of the 1986/7 agreement under which parties to the Biological Weapons Convention of 1972 annually declare the location and activities of their high-containment facilities. This agreement is an important and precedent-setting step in the strengthening of the BWC. Mikulak also helped design and effectively nurtured the domestic legislation implementing the prohibitions of the Biological Weapons Convention, signed into law by President Bush in May 1990.

Robert Mikulak has been central to every step that has been taken by the US government since the mid-1970s to achieve the international elimination of biological and chemical weapons. His unique blend of technical knowledge, diplomatic skill, and hard-working dedication have earned him the respect and admiration of essentially everyone involved officially or academically with CBW arms control in the United States and abroad. If recognition is to be given for achievements in biological and chemical arms control, no one is more deserving than he.

Sincerely,

Matthew Meselson