

MemCon: phone conv between Arend MEERBURG and Matthew MESELSON, 11 Dec 1991

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From MSM's office at Harvard, while we were working on our tear-gas editorial.

- 1) There is a Western paper on tear gas dated 21 November 1991. But we should make no reference to it.
- 2) The United States is almost entirely isolated on the tear-gas issue. Its position is that the definition of toxic chemicals should be redone so as to include only supertoxic lethal and lethal, nothing else, and that the CWC should place no restraints on any chemicals consequently defined as nontoxic.
- 3) MEERBURG's own view is that the definition should be left as it is. But the CWC should list agents approved for police purposes.
- 4) France doesn't agree with the US position, but wants to keep RCAs out of the definition somehow. However, MEERBURG thinks the French CD delegation hasn't properly coordinated its position on this with Paris yet.
- 5) The USA is thought to be reconsidering its position. Bob MIKULAK, however, is thought not to be pushing for reconsideration.
- 6) MEERBURG will fax us a copy of the paper he showed us back in August -- his 5th August paper, he said.