



**GLOBAL
GREEN
U S A**

August 22, 1995

Professor Matthew Meselson
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Dear Professor Meselson:

I would like to speak with you about the possibility of your attending as a "foreign expert" a Public Hearing on the Problem of the Chemical Weapon Destruction in the Saratov Region sponsored by Green Cross Russia to be held in Gorny, October 17-19, 1995.

Stephan Robinson, Coordinator of the Legacy Programme of Green Cross International, has informed me you are scheduled to be in Russia around the time of the Gorny hearings for another conference.

I enclose some material on the hearings. As you can see, there will be strong participation by the Russian government, military, regional and local governments, as well as scientific, technical, and citizen participation.

The timing is being coordinated with the Russian-American NGO Summit on Chemical Weapons Disposal, to allow for strong participation of citizens and NGO's. The NGO Summit is being co-sponsored by CEC International Partners and the Chemical Weapons Working Group.

I also include a brief background on Global Green and the Legacy Project.

I will call you later this afternoon to discuss this further.

Thank you for your time and interest.

Sincerely,

Polly Parks
Director, The Legacy Project

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Message 6 (198 lines)

From GREENCROSS@ubaclu.unibas.ch Wed Aug 2 08:29:07 1995

Date: Wed, 02 Aug 1995 17:30:14 +0200

From: Stephan Robinson <GREENCROSS@ubaclu.unibas.ch>

Subject: Info on hearing

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Public hearings on the problems of the CW destruction in the Saratov region

Concept

Russia's preparations to ratify the Chemical Weapon Convention (CWC) and to destruct CW stockpiles are in their final phases. The RF Governmental Decree #1470 of December 30, 1994 defines the starting time of the Gorny stockpile destruction as 1995.

In this connection the necessity to hold public hearings on this very issue has objectively matured. The hearings shall serve as a platform to conduct an open discussion between representatives of the population, public organizations, authorities, Ministry of Defence, Conventional Committee, experts on the CW destruction technologies, physicians and ecologists.

The sad experience done on the plant construction in Chapajevsk in the Samara region showed that confrontation between the public and authorities does not give any chance to a constructive solution. Despite the fact that both parties are advocating the ratification of the CWC, each side has its own opinion on the ways of the problem solution.

Public hearings under the guiding principle 'From confrontation to collaboration' are held for the first time in Russia. Their objectives are to try to establish a mutual understanding between the population and public environmental NGOs on one side and authorities and ministries on the other side. This shall be done on the subject of the construction of the CW destruction plant in the settlement of Gorny. The hearings should lead to practical steps in solving the complicated environmental problem.

Hearing initiator}

Green Cross Russia

Hearing participants (preliminary list)

- * Saratov Regional Duma (Parliament),
- * Saratov Regional Administration,
- * State Duma of the RF,
- * Saratov Regional Committee on Nature Protection,
- * Administrations of the settl. of Gorny, Shikhany and the town of Volsk,

- * Interdepartmental Commission on CW Destruction,
- * Committee on Conventional Problems of CW Destruction,
- * International Preparatory Commission for the Organization for the Prohibition of CW,
- * Ministry of Defense,
- * Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
- * Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources,
- * Ministry of Public Health,
- * Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergencies,
- * Russian Academy of Sciences,
- * Saratov affiliate of Green Cross Russia,
- * Saratov Centre for Civil Initiative Support,
- * Gorny Public--Environmental Movement,
- * Physicians Association "Health to Children",
- * Shikhany Initiative,
- * Population representatives from Shikhany and Gorny,
- * Working Group on CW (CWWG, USA),
- * Kentucky Foundation for Environment (KEF, USA),
- * Green Cross International,
- * Green Cross Switzerland,
- * Global Green USA,
- * Saratov State University,
- * Saratov State Medical Institute,
- * Mass media representatives.

Hearing sponsors

- * Federal Ecological Foundation of the RF,
- * Saratov Regional Administration,
- * Kentucky Foundation for Environment (KEF, USA),
- * Green Cross International,
- * Green Cross Switzerland,
- * The Netherlands Embassy in Russia.

Date of hearings

- * October 17--19, 1995

Place of hearings

- * Saratov, Gorny

Objectives of hearings

- * Open discussions on the whole complex of political, ecological, social, medical, economic,

technological and other problems, connected with the destruction of CWs dumped on the territory of the Saratov region.

- * Merging the efforts of all parties for ensuring the safe CW destruction.
- * Elimination of the confrontation between the population and authorities on the principal issues of the plant construction and operation in Gorny.
- * Formulating a joint program on overcoming the legacy of the arms race in the Saratov region.
- * Examining the results of expert discussions on CW destruction technologies.
- * International cooperation on the problems of CW ban and safe destruction.
- * Formulation of the general principles and methodological approaches for building and operating a system of public ecological control around the sites of CW storing and management and during transportation of the poisons detoxication products (reaction masses).
- * Assessment of the effects of CW production, testing, storing and destruction on the people's health and environment. Elaboration of medical--rehabilitation measures.
- * Discussions on possibilities of conversion of chemical military objects and their specialists.
- * The endorsement of democratic reforms and sustainable development in the Saratov region of Russia.

Hearings schedule and contents

- * 1st day: participants arrival, registration, start of the hearing,
- * 2nd day: speeches, addresses, discussions, joint resolutions,
- * 3rd day: trip to Gorny, departure.

In the hearings specialists and experts will discuss various problems (technical and social) connected to the CW destruction and the rehabilitation of population and environment. Participants will be informed on the government's plans in the very sphere and experts evaluations will be discussed.

It is supposed to conduct a constructive dialogue on the basis of objective information on the environment and population health state among all concerned parties. Population, authorities, representatives of the government and ministries shall formulate a joint solution to overcome the legacy of the Cold War and sustainable development of the region.

In the course of the hearings the project designers of the CW destruction plant will acquaint independent Russian and foreign experts with technical documentation.

In the framework of the hearings a seminar of non--governmental organizations and population representatives will be held on the initiatives working out to accelerate the CWC ratification.

GLOBAL GREEN USA History and Overview

"The purpose of this organization is the formation of new principles of interaction between man and nature -- on the basis of which it will be possible to ensure the future of humankind -- and the introduction of these principles into the consciousness and everyday lives of people"

Mikhail S. Gorbachev, President
Green Cross International

Having effected historic and fundamental change as president of the Soviet Union, Nobel Prize winner Mikhail Gorbachev has issued a new challenge to the governments and citizens of the world. Detailing humanity's essential link to the planet, Gorbachev has called for a movement to ensure humankind's future on Earth. The response to this challenge was the creation of Green Cross International (GCI) in Kyoto, Japan in 1993.

Global Green USA, the American affiliate of GCI, was inaugurated during the October 1994 visit of Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev to Los Angeles. GG USA is joined by Estonia, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Russia, South Korea, Switzerland, Sweden, and the UK with an additional 20 member nations expected to join in 1995. The objectives and programs of Global Green USA mirror the goals of GCI:

Building the capacity to prevent and respond to human-made environmental disasters

The Legacy Project: Working to accelerate the cleanup of military toxics -- the environmental legacy of the Cold War -- the Legacy Project works through a model of cooperation and is guided by the Working Group which includes representatives from the military, citizen activist, scientific, environmental, health, education and business communities.

Recent Accomplishments: On April 7, 1995, the Legacy Project hosted a National Forum on Military Toxics. Keynoted by Governor Evan Bayh of Indiana, participants ranging from citizen activists to uniformed military personnel gathered to share information, exchange ideas, and produce a multilevel communications plan to educate the public and Congress.

Fostering a global value shift with regard to the environment through mass media and education to re-establish humankind's regard and respect for the natural environment

The Russian Environmental Education Initiative: In partnership with the Russian and Swiss Green Cross affiliates, U.S. and European experts share their ideas in an effort to advance environmental education in Russia.

Recent Accomplishments: In February 1995, GG USA's team of experts met in Switzerland to establish a Moscow-based resource center, an annual conference of Russian educators, and a program of environmental education for Russian teachers.

Creating international ecological law

The Earth Charter: In association with the Earth Council and GCI, the Earth Charter -- to be ratified by the United Nations by 2000 -- will be the foundation for an international code to ensure the future sustainability and integrity of life on Earth.

Recent Accomplishments: Earth Charter steering committee representatives met in February 1995 in New York to outline the future process to draft, approve, and disseminate the document and concepts.



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Dr. June Reinisch
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THE LEGACY PROJECT

Cleaning up the environmental legacy of the Cold War—military toxics



Military toxic waste—the vast toxic and radioactive pollution left from making, storing and testing the nuclear, chemical and conventional weapons of the Cold War—poses an enormous threat to public health and the environment. Only recently has the extent of the poisoning been made known, along with the resulting effect on the health and lives of citizens of the United States and the former Soviet Union in particular.

Global Green USA, the American affiliate of Green Cross International, is bringing together all stakeholders in this issue in the United States in a cooperative effort to enhance existing efforts at cleanup, raise public awareness, assist in replicating successful local programs, and facilitate communication between all parties. Those involved include representatives from the military, citizen activist, scientific, environmental, health, academic and business communities.

On an international level, Global Green USA's task is to accelerate Department of Defense and US AID funding of cleanup efforts in Russia and the former Soviet Republics, as well as at US overseas bases.

The Legacy Project is also a major program of Green Cross Russia, with both the US and Russian initiatives being overseen by Green Cross International.

BACKGROUND

The military industrial complex each year produces more toxic waste than the combined output of the five most polluting chemical companies in the United States, and yet the issue hardly registers on the national environmental and public health agendas of this country.

The two major parties involved in cleanup efforts—focused on the pollution remaining from 40 years of the Cold War as well as currently generated pollution—are the military themselves and citizen activists. Representatives of both groups have asked Global Green USA for assistance; both are interested in having Global Green and its Legacy Project serve as a broker and credible source of information on the subject of military toxics. To this end the Project aims to find and disseminate accurate and substantiated information drawn from activist, military, scientific, health and environmental perspectives. Part of this effort will include identifying and replicating successful local efforts and initiatives throughout the country and, where possible, the world.

In order to accomplish these bold efforts, both the military and citizen activists are anxious to raise the profile of military toxics as a major environmental issue. The military must secure adequate cleanup budgets from the Department of Defense, and be acknowledged for beginning to clean up their own mess. Citizen activists are essentially a local phenomenon and want a stronger national voice and the resources to share information. In an effort to raise public

awareness of the military toxics issue. The Legacy Project will enlist the help of influential and well-known figures in a communications campaign that will articulate the public health risks posed by military toxics and the efforts underway to restore these sites.

The Legacy Project is a multi-stakeholder initiative working to ensure that all interested parties have access to an ongoing dialogue on issues related to military toxics. This dialogue will allow people with widely divergent opinions to move from confrontation and towards cooperation—all in an effort to provide solutions to the many problems associated with military toxics.

The aim of The Legacy Project is to build on and support decades of work by concerned individuals and groups to cleanup military toxics. Through this effort, GG USA is working to promote and accelerate the cleanup of the Cold War's toxic legacy in the United States and at UN military sites in other countries.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

National Working Group

We have assembled a group of people representing the military, citizen activist, science, environmental, foundation, health and business communities. They are charged with making sure that all interested parties have access to an ongoing dialogue on issues related to military toxics, and that this dialogue emphasize cooperation rather than confrontation; finding common ground and negotiating rather than a completely adversarial approach.

Information Network

An electronically-based system to provide credible information on a wide range of military toxics-related issues via e-mail, computer networks and CD-ROM technology to an audience of activist, military, government, scientific, environmental and media specialists. The free flow of information and the resulting lessening of secrecy will contribute greatly to an enhanced sense of collaboration among all parties.

On-site Data Review

Data from military and government documents regarding the contamination of military bases is often viewed as inaccessible, or as suspect by citizen activists and those living in the surrounding communities. The Institute for Science and Interdisciplinary Studies (ISIS) has just completed a pilot study at the Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, MA where they used college students and professors to undertake an impartial data review—and generate new data—at one of twenty-two contaminated sites on the facility. They also formed a network of military representatives, concerned citizens, scientific experts, community and public interest groups, and succeeded in expanding public involvement in the decision-making process related to base cleanup.

Communication Campaign

Citizen participation will ultimately be the key to any efforts to clean up military toxics, and so an ongoing media and communication campaign is required to elevate public awareness and focus media attention on this issue. The campaign will also target policy makers, major foundations and environmental organizations.

Redirecting Scientific Research

Cleanup of military toxics is still a technological frontier, despite Pentagon spending of approximately \$2 billion this year on environmental restoration of military bases. There will be a major initiative to redirect the focus of the US scientific research facilities that originally produced the nuclear, chemical and conventional weapons. In a post-Cold War world, this extensive system of laboratories has been left without a brief: the time is right to engage them in researching the environmental engineering required to clean up military toxics.

National Forum

There will be a national forum on the subject of cleanup of military toxics in the Spring of 1995. This meeting will bring together the major stakeholders in the field in support of the aims of the Legacy Project, to expand the scope of that program, and to prepare for the international Legacy Project conference now being planned for 1996.

International Conference

The first major international multilateral conference on the subject of military toxics will be convened in Geneva in 1996, and will bring together the people most directly affected by military toxics. The purpose of the conference is to raise the profile of military toxics internationally, strengthen the existing networks of people involved in the issue, enhance programs of international cooperation and highlight workable models for cleaning up toxic pollution.

International Collaboration

The Legacy Project is a program of Green Cross International, and is being implemented through three of its national chapters—in the United States, Russia and Switzerland. Overall coordination of the project is under the auspices of Roland Wiederkehr, a member of the Board of Trustees of Green Cross International and a Delegate of the Board to their Management Committee.

March 1995