

Kenyon

**PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE ORGANISATION  
FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

**Provisional Technical Secretariat**

**FACSIMILE**

<b>To:</b>	<b>Matthew Meselson</b>	<b>Fax No:</b>	<b>00 1 617 496 2444</b>
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<b>From:</b>	<b>Treasa Dunworth</b>	<b>Fax No:</b>	<b>070-360 0944</b>
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Dear Matt,

As you leave for Moscow, in case you need some flight time reading, I'm attaching the press release with Kenyon's statement today. You will see he refers to the Duma statement.

Bon voyage

Treasa

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**Laan van Meerdervoort 51, 2517 AE The Hague, The Netherlands.**  
**Tel: 31-70-376 1700 Fax: 31-70-360 0944**

**PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE ORGANISATION  
FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

**Provisional Technical Secretariat**

*External Relations Division*

*Media & Public Affairs Branch*

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**PRESS RELEASE** (FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA - NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WELCOMES POSITIVE VOTE BY UNITED STATES  
SENATE ON RATIFICATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

The following is the text of a statement by the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Mr Ian R. Kenyon, on the positive vote in the United States Senate yesterday on a bill related to the Chemical Weapons Convention: "One of the most ambitious efforts in the field of disarmament and international security will finally come to a fruition on 29 April, when the Chemical Weapons Convention, which bans the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and ensures their destruction within a specific time frame goes into effect. The Convention is backed by a comprehensive verification system embracing declarations and inspections, and is supported by provisions on sanctions against violators.

So far, the Convention has been signed by 164 States from across the globe, and has been ratified by 74 of them. In The Hague, where the Preparatory Commission for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has been meeting since February 1993, efforts have focused on an effective beginning by the OPCW. It is necessary that the Convention enjoys near universality of membership in order that all chemical weapons and related production facilities are covered within the scope of its operations, and are destroyed within a period specified in the Convention under international supervision.

In this connection, ratifications of the two largest possessors of chemical weapons, the United States and the Russian Federation, as well as some other key states who have yet to ratify the Convention, are of fundamental importance. The endorsement of the Convention by the United States Senate yesterday is indeed, heartening news, and will give a boost to the ratification efforts in several other States. I hope to see the United States as an original State Party before the Convention enters into force, and I sincerely hope that the Russian Federation will also follow suit in the near future. In this regard I am encouraged by the statement adopted today by the State Duma of the Russian Federation indicating its intention to complete the ratification process this autumn.

A number of detailed procedures and practical requirements for the OPCW, which will command world-wide attention, have already been finalised. By the end of May, roughly 140 inspectors trained in different parts of the world will be ready to join the rest of the OPCW Technical Secretariat staff. On the domestic front, States Parties will have to ensure that appropriate laws and administrative procedures are in place for fulfilling the necessary obligations undertaken under the Convention. A sound basis has thus already been laid in The Hague for the success of this unique experiment. I am confident that the OPCW will be equal to the challenges which lie ahead".

**Further information can be obtained by contacting the Media and Public Affairs Branch  
at 070-376 17 68/07 (Mr Anil Wadhwa or Ms Chantal de Haas).**

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**Laan van Meerdervoort 51, 2517 AE The Hague**

**Tel: +31-70-3761700, Fax: +31-70-3600944**

webmaster@opcw.nl. <http://www.opcw.nl/>