

*forwarded
4/23/98*

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION

START=APR-23 14:35

END=APR-23 14:56

FILE NO. = 046

STN NO.	COM	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL.NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	BUSY	*	9916174955099	000/011	00:00'00"

-OSIA

***** -IO(NCB) - ***** 703 810 4895- *****

UNCLASSIFIED

FAX COVER SHEET



ON-SITE INSPECTION AGENCY NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL & BIOLOGICAL DIVISION

DATE: *23 APRIL 98*

NUMBER OF PAGES: *10*
(Excluding cover)

TO: *Prof. M. Meiselson*

OFFICE SYMBOL:

PHONE: *496-2444*

FAX: *617-495-5099*

REMARKS: *TRANSLATION OF DOC PASSED TO ME*

By BG REMBERT.

*PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL 703-810-4118
VR*

Cel W.D. McLane

FROM:
OFFICE:
PHONE:
FAX:

OSIA-IONCB
(703) 810-4118
(703) 810-4895

3 MARCH 1998

4

IZVESTIYA

"EVERYTHING THAT THEY SAY ABOUT
US IS A MYTH"

General Lieutenant Valentine Yevstigneyev, Deputy Chief of the Biological Defense Branch of the Radiological, Chemical and Biological Defense Command (RCBDCOM) , maintains that Russia has not supplied Iraq with the equipment necessary for the production of Bacteriological Weapons.

PHOTO HERE: General-Lieutenant (U.S. = MGEN) Valentine Ivanovich Yevstigneyev of Medical Services, holds a Ph.D. in Medical Sciences. He headed the 15th directorate of the Ministry of Defense (Biological Defense) until 1992, when he personally supervised the destruction of all laboratories, buildings and technical processing lines. This placed him under the suspicion of the world community. It was during this same year that Russian President Boris Yeltsin declared that Russia no longer has an offensive program in this area.

In mid-February 1998 Russian newspapers published a series of articles regarding Russia's participation in the delivery of dual-use technical equipment which could have been used by Saddam Hussein's regime to produce biological weapons. Another story also receiving wide public attention in the press - the malignant anthrax epidemic in Sverdlovsk in 1979. Leo Fyodorov, the president of the "Alliance for Chemical Safety" stated that the epidemic was caused by an accidental explosion of a round filled with a secret "selective acting" biological agent, which was harmful only to adult males under the age of 50. Up until now not one statement regarding this matter has been issued by the RCBDCOM headquarters, located on Frunzenskaya Naberezhnaya.

-Could this interview be considered as your official response to the accusations of the press?

-As you wish... in practically all of these publications (he points at a stack of newspapers) there are hints about my participation... Although all that they write about my past and present actions, - is pure conjecture, it is absurd that is receiving all this attention... A different side of the issue could be that these publications have planned a misinformation campaign. And this is just the beginning...

-Would you care to comment on who is leading the mass media? Isn't this too general? Doesn't this seem like the opinion of a high ranking officer?

The statement is no harder to believe than our present international situation. In reality there is an attempt to discredit the peace keeping efforts of Moscow with regards to resolving the crisis in Iraq while simultaneously portraying the image of an enemy within the regime of Saddam Hussein. All this is being done with a clear conscience and the full understanding of the international community so that force can be used later.

the full understanding of the international community so that force can be used later.

By the way, Iraq is just the closest matter at hand. The next matter will be to create favorable conditions to quickly establish a control mechanism that will ensure compliance of the 1972 convention according to Washington's conditions. Take for example the situation in Iraq: A UN commission worked there for several years under similar conditions, it has searched far and wide, but findings have been scarce. It is understandable that some reservations and suspicions arose... But Washington alone is already making the irreversible decision to bomb Iraq.

Reference: A 1972 International Convention bans the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxic Weapons. Intensive negotiations to develop a control mechanism for the practical realization of the convention have been on-going in Geneva since 1995. Among the 40 participating countries the dominate positions are held by the United States and The European Community. Russia's point of view is supported by Cuba and China. France and Germany agree with most of the positions of the other countries. The essence of the demands of United States representatives are challenge inspections (inspections "based on the slightest suspicion"). This means that substantial proof is not required for a serious investigation, but simply the suspicion that a country is violating the convention.

-There has been much exaggeration regarding the question of whether or not Russia was connected with Iraq's biological weapons program. Was there a delivery of dual use technical equipment?

You're beating a dead horse. The question regarding the shipment from Russia to Iraq of a fermenter for the preparation of supplementary livestock feeding proteins was discussed several years ago. That's it! There were no further negotiations, contracts or shipments. All the rest of it is conjecture. As are the stories of the so-called "Malignant Anthrax of 1979" which someone is trying to surreptitiously draw attention to.

As before, you maintain that there was no incident of an explosion of munitions containing biological agent fill, and no incidence of massive casualties in the military town of Sverdlovsk-19 in 1979?

People having no background in Bacteriology are free to believe in the newspapers' cock and bull stories (such as what is happening right now by the way). Where as professionals would simply laugh.

International experts have found a total of 4 strains (virus cultures - authors note) of the malignant anthrax virus. Four separate bacteria! Different, Understand? If a bomb had really exploded would there have been 4 strains? How can you explain that people 50 kilometers away got sick and yet among those within the military town where an explosion supposedly took place not one single person got sick? There is a tank division stationed right next to it - two deaths. Believe me, had this been a release of military grade anthrax, in 2-3 days everyone would have been dead.

Besides this, no one has written about the several large cow carcasses infected with malignant anthrax that were brought to the brick factory to be burned in the furnace. The workers cut pieces off from them and dragged them home like they were non-contaminated meat. Malignant anthrax is impervious to incineration, its spores could have flown anywhere through the smoke stack. The spores themselves live hundreds of years. For example, no one has been able to live on the British Island of Grunnard since World War II. Biological Weapons were tested there, in particular, malignant anthrax...

-However, according to the description the disease was uncharacteristically short-lived.

-The next lie. The epidemic lasted more than a month and a half. Not the town, nothing would be left! And the thousands of casualties that Fyodorov spoke of is also a lie. There were 96.

I had not yet been in Sverdlovsk-19 in 1979. But in 1985 I was named the institute deputy director for scientific research. Of course I tried to figure out the situation. I did a computer research in order to design a model for image recognition. I entered three versions: (1)The institute was guilty, (2) a natural outbreak was responsible, or (3) it was an act of sabotage with the goal of compromising the establishment. It's no surprise that the last version received the most points.

-In the documentary "Generals and Malignant Anthrax" a worker is filmed speaking about the existence of shops which produce biological munitions. The Ministry of Defense considers the film to be credible. Would this indicate that there is indeed an underground factory?

-There was a shop where we manufactured 4 models of American 1-pound, 2-pound and 4-pound bombs. The workers were literally down on their knees turning these "toys". That's all we could do - we had to learn how to evaluate the biological environment, in case these types of weapons were used. We filled the rounds, went to an island in the Aral Sea, detonated them and placed sensors to collect biological data, we studied the agent cloud and so on... We now have incredibly detailed calculations which are used by everyone from the Ministry of Defense to the Emergency Response Committee (Ministry of Emergency Situations).

This was done much earlier than the epidemic occurred. In 1979 several ampoules of malignant anthrax excitors were being stored in a laboratory refrigerator in Sverdlovsk-19 in order to develop a vaccine. This was well known in all government circles, which, by the way, is why they pointed the finger at us.

-And what about the selective acting biological weapons? The malignant anthrax in Sverdlovsk affected only adult men...

-First of all, it was not only men. 20 percent of the casualties were women and children. Secondly, if you know the history of genetics, in 1974 foreign scientists showed that it was possible to clone genes in a foreign host. But, neither the technology of cloning, or genetic engineering existed during that time. Generally speaking, biologists could only dream about a cloned authentic virus which damages the cells of warm blooded animals and not a bacteriophage, which multiplies in a test tube.

-Anyway, are there selective acting biological weapons?

-What we're talking about here is the peculiarities of receptors, stipulated by genetic composition. If you have the receptor - the weapon will work. If not - it passes you by... With the help of scientists around the world the Americans have been able to map the genetic structure of man. It was kept secure under their Department of Energy (all military research in the United States is conducted through this department). Then they discovered the

differences in receptor fields of people of various races. Especially vulnerable turned out to be the Turkic group... Thus began the stir, and the development practically disappeared.

-Does this mean all that's been written is untrue?

-This is a science fiction fantasy. Just like the one that Russia sent Saddam equipment that could be used to produce biological weapons. I too, can indulge in fantasies. There is a sick joke - The person who discovered AIDS is the same one who discovered the legend its origin. There are serious suspicions that AIDS was created in a military laboratory abroad. Several black skinned volunteers from prison were infected, but the analysis came up with a negative reaction. They still didn't know that the incubation period could last decades. The volunteers were released (from prison) and the situation got out of control. The HIV positive rate is up to 80 percent in some African nations, but not in Arabic countries.

Don't you find this interesting? However, I'm not screaming about it from every corner. No one from the professional community is screaming about it... the causes I repeat, are many. It is only in the press that you can read so much between the lines. For example, a vaccine for AIDS has been found. Two scientists introduced a preservative into a pure virus culture, after which the virus disappeared. The procedure involved every single step of the preparation of a bio-mass. All of them! But who among our AIDS researchers would have even touched a pure concentrated culture, who would have tried to dry it out, to preserve it?.. This is most important information about these classified works.

-Valerij Ivanovich, the people of that area are justifiably interested. In what activities are the Biological Troops engaged?

-Only peaceful pursuits. Safeguards from infection, which includes the infections of war time. They are developing means of bio-reconnaissance, vaccines and antibiotics (we are 20 years behind the times in this area), methods for dealing with possible large scale outbreaks of infectious diseases. We have been given the task of dealing with corrosion, occurring mainly in armaments and military technology where biological processes play the leading role. In connection with poor financing we are turning to the open market. This is because we produce the only malignant anthrax vaccine in the country. We are also participating

in efforts to clean up sights of massive petroleum contamination. For example, in Bologoy and Tyumen'. We are one of the few entities in the Department of Defense which could conditionally be called a self sufficient organization.

Does your system have test ranges, secret facilities or factories?

Three scientific research institutes under one name - The Scientific Research Institute of Microbiology. They are spread out over three locations, this is because work with viruses (in Sergeev Posad), with bacteria (in Kirov), and with technical problems (in Ekaterinburg), have incompatible safety measures.

-Does the poor funding of the Ministry of Defense represent a danger to the safe storage of chemical weapons?

...This is a little out of my realm, but I can say that our chemical weapons are stored better (safer) than the American weapons are stored. Most of the American agent, to put it bluntly, is poured into barrels (one ton containers* interpreter note) while ours are stored in artillery and aerial munitions. Of course you can't compare the thickness of barrels with that of bombs. They have been leaking in America for a long time now, our specialists have visited all these overseas facilities.

Speaking pragmatically, the Convention on Reducing Chemical Weapons is advantageous for the Americans. Nobody needs old trash. Moreover, not on their own continent. It is not possible to ship these chemical (weapons) overseas, they could get out... It is much more expensive for America to develop a program of counteraction than it is to choose reduction. They have even agreed to assist us at no charge - They have the CWDSO in Moscow. They are building us a facility in Shchuch'e at no cost.

Another issue...They are trying determine whether or not we have binary chemical weapons (They themselves have had them a long time!). We have not had them and do not have them. We just have the regular trash, a lot of it. We have 42.5 thousand tons of it.

-Do you think terrorists could carry out a biological attack?

-It would depend on their education. For me it would be easy - all I would need is a virus culture.

-Is it difficult to get clearance for your facility?

-You journalists have nothing to complain about. You are almost permanent residents in our facility. I can send someone everywhere except where they are working with Ebola and other highly dangerous viruses. In the first place, I would have to give the person several inoculations. In the second place, I have to see how he will react to the medications in the unlikely event that, God forbid, there is an incident. And thirdly, I must keep him in quarantine 21 days to ensure that he presents no danger to those around him. If you agree to all these conditions, then let's put on an environmental suit and enter...Wait, I forgot, following the entry, all the equipment needs to be soaked in alkali. That's how it's done...

-What, it's so serious that you have to use alkalai?

-We had a female lab tech working with us. She accidentally stuck herself while injecting mice with the ebola virus. She didn't tell anyone about it, as she was hurrying to a holiday party. In a word, it all turned out sadly... It's the same timeless story about safety measures. They are written by smart people and violated by idiots. Only in environmental suits, only with alkalai.

Final question. What qualities must a "fighter on the virus front" possess?

-A doctor, who comes to us, must be in the prime of health and physical condition. Not everyone can wear the environmental suit everyday - you can sweat half a bootful in three hours. Our people are suffering for all of 300 rubles a month. You want a job? I invite you...

Meanwhile...

It came as a big surprise when US experts made an admission to the Associated Press at the end of last week. Judging by the unexpected revelation, we find ourselves believing that it must have been advantageous for Washington to criticize other countries in order to turn the world's attention away from the fact that America is not fulfilling its own responsibilities with regard to Chemical Weapons.

The Associated Press reminds us that on April 25th 1997 the U.S. Senate ratified the CWC. And by the 29th of April this international agreement, developed under the auspices of the UN entered into force. It has been suggested that this document was developed with the express goal of preventing countries, such as Iraq, from stockpiling lethal agents for military goals. So the AP maintains that while the United States has been criticizing Iraq for the last 10 months it has been unable to completely fulfill its own convention obligations.

As it turns out, the U.S. government has given a group of international observers exhaustive information on the governmental military industrial complex and allowed the inspectors on the sites. However, in violation of Treaty stipulations, the government has still not disclosed information regarding private sector chemical production.

Roger Madzhek, the Deputy Secretary of Trade responsible for export commented that, "This is damaging our credibility".

But how can you not compare this with Iraq's stubbornness? However, as usual everyone is blaming Russia for this. AP representatives confirm that the corresponding law, which would open the doors of the closed enterprises, was stuck in the U.S. Congress and had become a "hostage of political infighting" - They have added to this law a stipulation from another bill directed at punishing Russia for selling Iran rocket technology. But President Clinton has spoken out against this kind of joining of two documents, it's like a small chemical truck trying to tow a rocket wagon - it makes no significant progress.

Sperdzhen Keeny, the President of the private Association for Advocates for Weapons Control summarized the dead end situation by saying, "I think that it is a very important treaty, and the fact that we are not diligently trying to fulfill it is simple irresponsibility".

It will be possible to make some progress when the Senate takes responsibility and separates the two completely different documents. But even in this circumstance, the United States would be trying to reserve some rights, which would limit the fulfillment of the International Convention.

Amy Smitson, an American expert on biological and chemical weapons graphically commented on the forthcoming amendment by saying, "If we distort the law in this fashion, we are shooting ourselves in the foot". According to him, other countries will respond to this decision by allowing the Americans to conduct inspections on their territories only with the same limitations that Washington places on foreigners in the States. This would suggest that American experts will not be very welcome throughout the rest of the world - 168 countries signed the Convention, of which only 61 of them have not yet ratified the treaty...

Translated by: TSgt Babick and CTI2 Salyards

QC'd by: Irina Ellis and Victor Stein