

Allison

Matt Meselson

From: Patricia_English@ksg.harvard.edu on behalf of graham_allison@Harvard.Edu
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2004 1:47 PM
To: msm@wjh.harvard.edu
Subject: Non-Lethal Weapons, CWC, BWC

Memorandum

To: Matthew Meselson
From: Graham Allison
Date: January 6, 2004
Subject: Non-Lethal Weapons, CWC, BWC

I wanted to let you know about the status of the CFR Independent Task Force on Non-Lethal Weapons (NLW) and Capabilities, co-chaired by Paul X. Kelly and myself, and directed by Richard Garwin.

You were concerned that certain types of NLW could be the camel's nose underneath the tent for introducing chemical and biological weapons onto the battlefield. Your article "'Non-Lethal' Weapons, the CWC and the BWC," provided sound insights as to how this process could unfold with technological advances that are just around the corner.

I believe that the CRF's NLW report outlines a roadmap for putting NLW on the Pentagon's agenda, while remaining faithful to the treaties. The Report is still in draft form, but I quote: "The Task Force judges that on balance the best course for the U.S. is to reaffirm its commitment to the CWC and BWC and to be the leader in ensuring that other nations strictly comply with the BWC and the CWC."

After weighing the costs and benefits of employing chemical NLWs, Garwin persuasively rejects any notion of a larger pursuit of their battlefield use, and pre-empts those who might like to go further in that direction.

Final product will be unveiled in mid-January, and I will be sure to provide you an early copy.