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INFO	LOG-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AIT-03	ARA-00	CIAE-00	CIP-00
	COME-00	DINT-05	DODE-00	DOEE-00	ANHR-01	EAP-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	HHS-04	INRE-00	INR-01	ITC-01	L-00	ADS-00
	NASA-01	NAS-01	NEA-00	NSAE-00	MSCE-00	NSF-01	PM-00
	SP-00	STR-20	TST-02	T-01	EPAE-00	/062W	

--VACCINES. LABS THAT CURRENTLY DEVELOP TOXIC BACTERIA COULD EASILY RETOOL TO DEVELOP TOXOIDS FOR USE AS VACCINES.

--MEDICINES. THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS LABS COULD ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOXINS HELPFUL IN BATTLING DISEASE, PARTICULARLY TUMORS;

--CANCER TREATMENT. YEZEPCHUK SAID THAT WEAPONS SCIENTISTS COULD AID IN COMBINING TOXINS WITH ANTI-BODIES, RESULTING IN A TREATMENT WHICH ATTACKS ONLY CANCEROUS CELLS. THIS RESEARCH, HE NOTED, WOULD REQUIRE THE WEAPONS LABS, WHICH HAVE SPECIALISTS IN TOXICS AND IN ANTI-BODIES, TO TEAM UP WITH CIVILIAN CANCER SPECIALISTS.

MAY 11 1992

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TAGS: TBIO, MCAF, SOCI, KSCA, RS
SUBJECT: BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS: AN EASY
- TARGET FOR CONVERSION?

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
APR 21 1992
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5. YEZEPCHUK ALSO RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT WEAPONS SCIENTISTS COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEW WORK UNDERWAY TO DEVELOP A "SUPER ANTIGEN" FOR TREATMENT OF THE AIDS VIRUS.

6. COMMENT: IF YEZEPCHUK'S INFORMATION IS CORRECT, THE MILITARY-BIOLOGY COMPLEX REPRESENTS A TREMENDOUS

1. SUMMARY: A SENIOR SCIENTIST WORKING ON THE FRINGES OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS INDUSTRY CLAIMS THAT THESE LABS ARE "EASY" TO CONVERT TO CIVILIAN USE. THE SPECIALISTS AND FACILITIES CAN BE USED FOR THE

DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF VACCINES AND MEDICINES. THESE RESOURCES COULD ALSO BE USED TO PUSH THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE IN CANCER TREATMENT. END SUMMARY.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RUSSIA TO RELIEVE ITS DESPERATE SHORTAGES OF VACCINES AND BASIC MEDICINES, NOT TO MENTION SOPHISTICATED HIGH-TECH TREATMENTS. THE CURRENT ASYMMETRY BETWEEN FUNDING FOR MILITARY AND CIVILIAN BIOLOGY SUGGESTS, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A CONVERSION IS LIKELY TO FACE RESISTANCE BY MANY LABORATORIES. S&TOFF OUTLINED POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YEZEPCHUK AND HIS COLLEAGUES TO RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER; YEZEPCHUK INDICATED THAT HE WILL, JOINTLY WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE U.S., PREPARE A PROPOSAL FOR EARLY CONSIDERATION. END COMMENT. STRAUSS

2. ON 8 APRIL S&TOFF MET WITH YURIY YEZEPCHUK, A LABORATORY HEAD AT MOSCOW'S GAMALEY INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY. YEZEPCHUK HAS SPENT HIS CAREER ON THE PERIPHERY OF CLASSIFIED LABORATORIES AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOVIET DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT, INCLUDING DUTY AT CHELYABINSK-40 (WHERE HE WITNESSED THE 1957 NUCLEAR-WASTE EXPLOSION) AND AT A SECRET BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS LAB IN ZAGORSK.

3. YEZEPCHUK SAID THAT HE PREFERS WORKING IN THE CIVILIAN SECTOR. HE CASTIGATED THE SOVIET SYSTEM FOR LABELLING SECRET BOTH FUNDAMENTAL AND APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS. THE GAMALEY INSTITUTE, HE SAID, HAS ONE SPECIAL DIVISION (NUMBER 5) DEVOTED TO BIOLOGICAL WARFARE. HE NOTED THAT WORK CONTINUES IN THIS DIVISION BY DINT OF ESTABLISHED CONTRACTS WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTRY AND "INERTIA." THE CIVILIAN PART OF THE INSTITUTE, HOWEVER, IS IN "CATASTROPHIC" CONDITION. LACKING MATERIALS AND FUNDS TO SUBSCRIBE TO WESTERN JOURNALS, THE WORK OF YEZEPCHUK'S LAB HAS VIRTUALLY STOPPED. HE SAID THAT, DURING A RECENT VISIT TO THE U.S., HE SPENT ALL OF HIS FREE TIME IN LIBRARIES TRYING TO CATCH UP ON THE LITERATURE IN HIS FIELD.

S, T O F F Strauss
Tuesday

4. YEZEPCHUK CHARACTERIZED THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS COMPLEX AS "THE EASIEST CASE FOR CONVERSION," COMPARED WITH THE INDUSTRIES PRODUCING CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS. (NOTE: IF IT IS EASY FOR THESE LABS TO CONVERT TO CIVILIAN PRODUCTION, IT MAY BE EQUALLY EASY TO REVERT TO MILITARY ACTIVITIES. END NOTE.) HE IDENTIFIED THREE DIRECTIONS FOR CONVERSION: