

Continuing earlier phone conversations.

- 1) The US-RF bilaterals in Moscow which ended a fortnight or so ago had been cut short after 3 of the projected 11 days. Russia was arguing that the definition of CWPF meant that once specialized equipment had been removed from the facility it was no longer a CWPF and therefore needn't be declared. They were therefore planning to declare only one CWPF: a 1945 lewisite factory.
- 2) Maybe this is bargaining: countering the US insistence on non-conversion. But he had learned from a good US administration source that, 18 months ago, the US had told the Russians not to worry about this US insistence, implying that it was only temporary.
- 3) If not, this will kill the treaty, most probably.
- 4) Next BW trilaterals are around 10 Nov, in Moscow. US remains convinced there is a Russian BW-weapons programme.
- 5) On the recent Russian Duma hearings, there is now the FEDOROV account (hearsay: he wasn't allowed in), the MIRZAYANOV account (he just went in), and the account Matt had just had from Alexei ARBATOV (a member of the Duma committee, and therefore present). ARBATOV said that the Duma wanted the CWC, but money for the chemdemil was a problem. The General Staff had testified that they too wanted the treaty, but chemil funding was a problem. The Chemical Troops colonels testified on the military functions of chemical weapons. This is perhaps what FEDOROV misinterpreted as the Russian military wanting to keep the weapons.
- 6) ARBATOV thinks the only way forward is for US and Russian presidents to establish a joint working party on chemdemil. Otherwise nothing. Matt now rather agrees. Even in the US, the whole CWC business has always been at an oddly low level in the administration.
- 7) Matt thinks he will may be able to persuade MIRZAYANOV to recant publicly. He had not seen the *Perspectives* piece. Is trying to learn more about it.
- 8) Germany is arguing for a TOP SECRET equivalent level of classification in OPCW. USA and UK say they are content with SECRET level.