



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
2 December 2021

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-sixth session
Agenda item 100
General and complete disarmament

Security Council
Seventy-sixth year

Letter dated 29 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the note verbale dated 15 November 2021 from the Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 100, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vassily Nebenzia



Annex to the letter dated 29 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian]

The Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) presents its compliments to the OPCW Technical Secretariat and, with reference to note No. NV/ODG-182/21 dated 9 November 2021 from the Technical Secretariat and note No. 109/2021 dated 5 November 2021 from the Permanent Representation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to OPCW, has the honour to request that the following response be transmitted to the Permanent Representation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to OPCW.

The Russian Federation recalls the provisions in article IX, paragraph 2, of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, which requires a State Party that has received a request for clarification to provide a response with “information sufficient to answer the doubt or concern raised along with an explanation of how the information provided resolves the matter”, not later than 10 days after the request.

The Russian Federation regrets that it has still not received meaningful responses in the notes verbales from the United Kingdom (No. 101/2021 dated 18 October 2021), Germany (No. 41/2021 dated 18 October 2021), France (No. 2021-0496245 dated 18 October 2021) and Sweden (no number, dated 18 October 2021), or from the Technical Secretariat (No. NV/ODG-152/21 dated 14 October 2021), to the questions raised in accordance with article IX, paragraph 2, of the Convention by the Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to OPCW in its note verbale No. 44 dated 7 October 2021. This information was reported in note verbale No. 54 from the Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation dated 2 November 2021 and was published on the OPCW website (No. EC-98/NAT.13).

The Russian Federation is still awaiting substantive replies from the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Sweden, as well as from the OPCW Technical Secretariat, to the questions raised under the framework for cooperation requested by the Russian Federation involving law enforcement and the diplomatic channel (the relevant requests and other materials are available on the OPCW website under No. EC-98/NAT.8). Without those substantive replies, it would appear impossible to confirm or deny the existence of corpus delicti in the incident with Mr. Navalny. The questions raised were as follows:

- Who was the person who accompanied Mr. Navalny on board the chartered medical flight from Omsk to Berlin, and what was their departmental affiliation? (A response is awaited from the Federal Republic of Germany);
- Why was the very fact that assistance not objectively required, but demonstrably provided to Germany through the OPCW Technical Secretariat on 4 to 6 September 2020, was concealed from Russia “until the very last moment”? (A response is awaited from the Federal Republic of Germany and the OPCW Technical Secretariat);
- Why is the role of Ms. Pevchikh, a newly-made British citizen who accompanied Mr. Navalny to Berlin and, according to various reports, has close ties with the British intelligence community, being so carefully concealed in this whole story? (A response is awaited from the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom);

- Why was the water bottle she obtained in the departure area of the airport later found to have traces of certain chemicals on it? Why wasn't this bottle handed over to the Russian law enforcement authorities as physical evidence? For what reasons are the Russian law enforcement authorities not being provided with an opportunity to question Ms. Pevchikh herself? (A response is awaited from the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom);
- Why are the formulas of the chemicals that were allegedly found in the biomaterials of a Russian citizen outside the Russian Federation still being hidden from the relevant Russian experts? (A response is awaited from the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Sweden and the OPCW Technical Secretariat).

The Russian Federation takes this opportunity to remind the Technical Secretariat once again that it has failed to respond to note verbale No. 29 dated 27 July 2021 from the Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to OPCW. The Permanent Representation urges the Technical Secretariat to provide the video footage in its possession, which should have been recorded by the Technical Secretariat's experts first when taking the biological samples from Mr. Navalny at the Charité clinic and then when separating and sealing them for transfer to the laboratories designated by the Technical Secretariat for testing, and to report on any other actions taken by the Technical Secretariat as part of providing technical assistance to the Federal Republic of Germany in the incident involving Mr. Navalny, a citizen of the Russian Federation.

The Russian Federation is operating on the premise that comprehensive and substantive responses to the above questions will make it possible to answer the main question: where, when and under what circumstances did the substance allegedly detected by German military chemists outside the Russian Federation and classified by them as a chemical warfare agent from the "Novichok" group, not included in the Annex on Chemicals to the Convention, appear in Mr. Navalny's biomaterials?

The Russian Federation will continue to urge the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Sweden and the OPCW Technical Secretariat to provide it with comprehensive and substantive information that will help to establish the truth about what happened to Mr. Navalny.

The Permanent Representation also requests the Technical Secretariat to urgently distribute a copy of this note to all States Parties to Chemical Weapons Convention, and to make it available on the OPCW website and the Catalyst online hub as an official document of the ninety-ninth session of the OPCW Executive Council.

The Permanent Representation takes this opportunity to convey to the Technical Secretariat the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

The Hague, 15 November 2021