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**Convention on the Prohibition of the Development,  
Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological)  
and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction**

**Security Council  
Seventy-seventh year**

**Letter dated 11 March 2022 from the Permanent Representative of  
the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

As a follow-up to the meeting of the Security Council on 11 March 2022, I would like to bring to your attention the presentations made by the Chief of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, Lieutenant General I. A. Kirillov, during his briefings on 7 and 10 March 2022, containing evidence regarding military biological programmes on the territory of Ukraine obtained by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Vassily Nebenzia



**Annex to the letter dated 11 March 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

[Original: Russian]

**Briefing by Lieutenant General I. A. Kirillov, Chief of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops of the Russian Federation Armed Forces**

7 March 2022

**Slide 1**

The Russian Ministry of Defence has repeatedly drawn attention to the biological warfare programmes being implemented by the Pentagon in the post-Soviet space.

**Slide 2**

A network has been formed, including in the territory of Ukraine, of more than 30 biological laboratories. These can be divided into scientific research laboratories and sanitary-epidemiological laboratories.

The work under way was commissioned by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency of the United States Department of Defense. Companies affiliated with the Department of Defense, primarily Black & Veatch, are involved in the implementation of the projects.

**Slide 3**

The work is being carried out in three main areas. The first area is monitoring of the biological situation, which, according to the Pentagon, is carried out in areas of possible deployment of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military contingents. The second area is the collection and export to the United States of strains of dangerous microorganisms. The third area is research work on potential biological weapons agents that are specific to the region, have natural foci and are capable of being transmitted to humans.

For example, since 2021, the Pentagon has been implementing a project called “Diagnosis, observation and prevention of zoonotic diseases in the Armed Forces of Ukraine”, which has \$11.8 million in funding.

In 2020–2021, the German Ministry of Defence conducted a study of the pathogens of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, leptospirosis, meningitis and hantaviruses in Ukraine, as part of the implementation of a Ukrainian-German initiative to ensure biological security on the external borders of the European Union.

Under the pretext of treating and preventing the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), several thousand samples of blood serum from patients, mostly of Slavic extraction, were taken from Ukraine to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research of the United States Army.

**Slide 4**

At the same time, the activities of biological laboratories, which we have tracked since 2014, and the so-called “reform” programme of the Ukrainian health-care system implemented by the United States have led to an uncontrolled increase in the incidence of particularly dangerous and economically significant infections.

For example, cases of rubella, diphtheria and tuberculosis are on the rise in Ukraine. The incidence of measles has increased by a factor of more than 100. The World Health Organization has declared Ukraine a high-risk country for polio outbreaks.

We believe that the 2007 strain of African swine fever, with increased contagiousness, was engineered in a Georgian biolaboratory run by the Pentagon. Its spread caused significant economic damage to a number of States, including Ukraine and Poland, and excluded them from exporting pork.

#### **Slide 5**

The Department of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops of the Russian Federation Armed Forces is constantly analysing the biological situation in Ukraine.

According to our data, biological programmes are being urgently shut down. The documents analysed confirm that, since 24 February, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine has set the goal of fully destroying the bioagents in the laboratories.

Our analysis of the instructions issued to laboratory officials reveals that the liquidation collection procedure is aimed at the irretrievable destruction of their materials. Apparently, everything necessary for the continuation of the biological warfare programme has already been taken out of Ukraine.

Our analysis of the acts of destruction shows that work was carried out with plague, anthrax and brucellosis pathogens in the Lvov biological laboratory; and with diphtheria, salmonellosis, and dysentery pathogens in laboratories in Kharkov and Poltava. These include the destruction, in Lvov alone, of 232 containers of leptospirosis pathogen, 30 of tularaemia, 10 of brucellosis and 5 of plague. In all, more than 320 containers were destroyed. The nomenclature and the excessive number of biopathogens indicate that the work was conducted as part of a biological warfare programme.

The Pentagon handlers understand that if these collections reach Russian experts then it is highly likely to be confirmed that Ukraine and the United States have violated the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction; namely, that they have carried out work to enhance the pathogenic properties of microorganisms using methods of synthetic biology.

This alone can explain the haste with which the liquidation measures were carried out. This is just a small part. We are continuing to work with the documents and will keep you informed.

### **Briefing by Lieutenant General I. A. Kirillov, Chief of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops of the Russian Federation Armed Forces**

10 March 2022

#### **Slide 1**

The Russian Ministry of Defence is continuing to study materials on the implementation of the biological warfare programmes of the United States and its NATO allies in Ukraine.

## **Slide 2**

Information received from various sources confirms the leading role of the United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency in funding and conducting biological warfare research in Ukraine.

We have learned the details of the UP-4 project, which was implemented with the participation of laboratories in Kiev, Kharkov and Odessa and was designed for the period up to 2020.

Its aim was to study the possibility of transmitting particularly dangerous infections via migratory birds, including the highly pathogenic influenza H5N1, which has a mortality rate of up to 50 per cent in humans, as well as Newcastle disease.

Owing to the fact that Ukraine has a unique geographical location where transcontinental migration routes intersect, 145 biological species were studied as part of this project. At least two species of migratory birds, whose migration routes pass mainly through Russian territory, were identified. At the same time, information about migration routes through Eastern Europe was summarized.

Of all the ways developed in the United States to destabilize the epidemiological situation, this is one of the most reckless and irresponsible because it does not allow the further development of the situation to be controlled. This is confirmed by the pace of the novel COVID-19 pandemic, the emergence and characteristics of which raise many questions.

## **Slide 3**

Also of interest is the R-781 project, where bats are being considered as vectors for potential biological warfare agents.

Among the priorities identified is the study of bacterial and viral pathogens that can be transmitted from bats to humans: plague, leptospirosis and brucellosis pathogens, as well as coronaviruses and filoviruses.

It is noteworthy that the studies are being conducted in the immediate vicinity of Russia's borders – in areas of the Black Sea coast and the Caucasus.

The project is being implemented with the involvement of not only Ukrainian, but also Georgian biological laboratories controlled by the Pentagon in cooperation with the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the United States Geological Survey.

## **Slide 4**

The materials analysed on the UP-8 project, aimed at studying the Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus and hantaviruses in Ukraine, clearly refute the public claim made by the United States that the Pentagon's biological laboratories in Ukraine are run exclusively by Ukrainian scientists without the intervention of United States biologists. One document confirms that all serious high-risk research is conducted under the direct supervision of specialists from the United States.

The payroll of the Ukrainian contractors clearly demonstrates how they are financed. It has been confirmed that the United States Department of Defense paid the money for participation in the research directly, without the involvement of intermediaries. The extremely modest pay, by United States standards, is noteworthy. This demonstrates a low estimate of the professionalism of Ukrainian specialists and the disdain that their United States handlers have for them.

In addition, the materials studied contain proposals for the expansion of the United States biological warfare programme in Ukraine. For example, evidence was found of the continuation of the completed UP-2, UP-9, and UP-10 biological projects aimed at studying the pathogens of anthrax and African swine fever.

The Pentagon is also interested in insect vectors capable of spreading dangerous infectious diseases. Analysis of the materials obtained confirms that more than 140 containers with bat ectoparasites – fleas and ticks – were transferred abroad from the Kharkov biological laboratory.

It is notable that similar research was conducted in the 1940s for the creation of biological weapons components by Japanese Unit 731, whose members subsequently fled to the United States to escape prosecution for war crimes.

#### **Slide 5**

I would like to remind you that representatives of Western countries are extremely cautious about handing over their biological materials.

At the same time, the documents available confirm numerous cases of the transfer abroad of Ukrainian citizens' biological samples. For example, 350 cryocontainers with blood serum samples were transferred from the Centre for Public Health of the Ukrainian Ministry of Health to the Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory of the Australian Doherty Institute under the pretext of determining antibody titers.

Another example is German-funded project No. 68727 EN to study Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever pathogens and hantaviruses. As part of this project, the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg received one thousand blood serum samples from citizens in different regions of Ukraine who belong exclusively to the Slavic ethnic group.

It is highly likely that one of the objectives of the United States and its allies is to create biological agents capable of selectively targeting different ethnic groups of the population.

During a March 8 hearing before the United States Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland reported on the presence of biological facilities in Ukraine carrying out biosecurity research. She expressed concern about the possibility of these biological laboratories and the materials there being taken over by the Russian Armed Forces.

The United States has reportedly already managed to evacuate most of the documentation, including databases, biomaterials, and equipment from laboratories in Kiev, Kharkov and Odessa, to the Lvov Research Institute of Epidemiology and Hygiene and to the United States Consulate in Lvov. The possibility that part of this trove will be transferred to Poland cannot be ruled out.

In fact, with her statement, Ms. Nuland has indirectly confirmed that the Pentagon is implementing a biological warfare programme in Ukraine in circumvention of existing international agreements.

**The materials on military biological activities on the territory of Ukraine are available through the following link:**

1. <https://disk.yandex.ru/d/WbAmYgmur91PDg>
2. <https://disk.yandex.ru/d/62hsNB8kC7MXPQ>