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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 27 May 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**

I would like to bring to your attention the presentation 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 briefing on 27 May 2022, containing additional materials regarding military biological programmes on the territory of Ukraine (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 27 May 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**

27 May 2022

The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation is continuing to study materials on the implementation of the biological warfare-related programmes of the United States of America and its North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies in the territory of Ukraine.

Under the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, each State party submits an annual report in the form of a declaration of compliance with the requirements of the Convention. This is currently the only reporting document on the implementation of the Convention as part of the confidence-building measures.

In connection with the investigation of United States biological warfare-related activities in the territory of Ukraine, we have analysed the documents sent by those States to the United Nations.

It should be noted that in these materials (Confidence-Building Measure Form A, part 2 (i)), neither Ukraine nor the United States provided information on joint biological research or on developments in the field of biological protection. In their reports, Poland and Germany also failed to declare any cooperation with Ukraine.

In addition, in these reports (Confidence-Building Measure Form F), for the period from 2016 to 2020, Ukraine stated that the Government of Ukraine had not conducted, and was not conducting, any offensive or defensive activities as part of biological research and development programmes; and that the Government of Ukraine had not had any information about such activities of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics being conducted in the territory of Ukraine since 1 January 1946.

This contradicts the 20 May 2022 statement by the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Lewis Gitter, that assistance to Kiev was aimed at reducing biological and veterinary risks, as well as securing the illegal stockpiles of biological weapons left behind by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

In addition, there are numerous inconsistencies in the reports submitted by Ukraine. For example, the 2020 "Confidence-Building Measure A" form declares a complete absence of national biological protection programmes. However, the Research Institute of Microbial Strain Biotechnology in Kiev is listed as a participant in the biological protection programme in part 2 (i) of this form.

Furthermore, the characteristics of the facility (the size of the laboratory premises and the number of personnel) do not match the information previously submitted by Ukraine.

The question arises: why did the reporting documents of the United States and Ukraine submitted to the United Nations not specify the work on the biological

warfare-related projects codenamed UP? Such secrecy is a reason to wonder about the Pentagon's true goals in Ukraine.

Before you are official documents confirming the organization of work with a clear military-biological orientation by the Pentagon, represented by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency of the United States Department of Defense.

Please note the memorandum prepared by the Office of the United States Secretary of Defense regarding the UP-2 project to map highly dangerous pathogens in the territory of Ukraine.

The document notes that the main objective of this project is to collect information about the molecular composition of pathogens specific to Ukraine and to transfer samples of strains.

It is also emphasized that this work should be consistent with the basic guidelines for the biological weapons proliferation prevention programme in Ukraine under the Cooperative Threat Reduction Programme of 29 November 2005.

A similar memorandum was prepared as part of the UP-1 project to study rickettsia and other diseases spread by arthropods. The document noted the need to transfer all collections of highly dangerous pathogens to a central reference laboratory in order to facilitate their organized export to the United States.

As part of the Cooperative Threat Reduction Programme, a large-scale UP-4 project was conducted to study the possibility of transmitting particularly dangerous infections via migratory birds. The documents obtained show that 991 biological samples were collected between November 2019 and January 2020 alone.

A total of 10 such projects (including UP-3, UP-6, UP-8 and UP-10) reportedly involved work with pathogens of particularly dangerous and economically significant infections: Crimean-Congo fever, leptospirosis, tick-borne encephalitis and African swine fever.

Today we also want to draw attention to numerous breaches of the safety requirements in Ukrainian laboratories.

For example, work with dangerous pathogens under Pentagon control in Kharkov, Kiev and a number of other cities was carried out in laboratories with insufficient staff protection. However, according to official data, only three laboratories with Biosafety Level 3 are authorized to conduct such research. These are the Odessa Anti-Plague Institute, the Lvov Research Institute of Epidemiology and Hygiene, and the Centre for Public Health in Kiev.

The Security Service of Ukraine noted that there were preconditions for the emergence of biological threats, owing to systematic violations and poor quality of work on the reconstruction of biolaboratories.

Black and Veatch, for example, declared that it had spent 37.8 million hryvnias on the modernization of three veterinary laboratories in 2013. The results of an independent review revealed an overestimation of the actual cost of the work, compared to the declared costs, in the amount of 17.7 million hryvnias.

This difference was reportedly sent to the accounts of fictitious companies, such as Golden Ukraine, BK Profbudinvest and the Capital Trade Agency, which further confirms the use of obscure financial schemes in the personal interests of United States and Ukrainian officials.

It is noteworthy that United States handlers demanded that the level of biosecurity at the reference laboratory in Merefa be increased. The designated organization, "Kharkovproject", said that was not possible under the prevailing

conditions and refused to approve the project. However, the regional administration decided to continue with the reconstruction. The facility was commissioned in circumvention of biosafety regulations and requirements. In this case, the Pentagon's total cost for its modernization was about 15 million dollars. But no one knows where these funds really went.

Please note the report of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine on the results of the inspection of the strain collection of the Ukrainian Anti-Plague Institute in Odessa, which totalled 654 samples. There were 32 strains of anthrax, 189 of tularemia, 11 of brucellosis and 422 of cholera in storage at the facility.

The report shows gross violations of storage conditions for microorganisms, a lack of access control and management systems and inadequate ventilation systems.

In April 2017, as a result of safety violations in one of the Institute's laboratories, there was a case of an internal laboratory infection with tick-borne encephalitis.

According to eyewitness accounts of an incident that took place in 2021, an employee of a biolaboratory removed several vials containing dangerous microorganisms from the premises of the facility. The consequences of such cases can only be imagined.

It should be noted that all the violations occurred during the period when the United States Biological Threat Reduction Programme was being implemented. This demonstrates that Washington's officially declared goals are just a screen for the implementation of illegal military and biological activities in the territory of Ukraine.

The negligent treatment of pathogens, the unprofessionalism and corruption in the executive branch and the destructive influence of handlers from the United States pose a direct threat to the civilian population of Ukraine and European countries.

Experts from the Russian Ministry of Defence have confirmed the fact that Ukrainian biolaboratories are connected to the global communicable disease surveillance system.

The backbone of this network, established since 1997 by the Pentagon, is the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in the State of Maryland. It includes land and naval laboratories as well as military bases around the world.

It should be noted that the deployment of such a network follows a typical scenario.

Initially, the United States is concerned about the epidemiological situation in a region. The next step is to ensure that officials, particularly those in the health ministries, have an interest and a financial incentive to work together, and to conclude intergovernmental agreements. As a result, a bio facility is erected and connected to the single biomonitoring system. The United States then gains access to all of a country's developments in the biological field. Moreover, restrictions are placed on local specialists' access to a number of studies, as well as their results.

Meanwhile, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency of the United States is actively implementing automated disease monitoring hardware and software, as well as systems to control access to and the movement of biological pathogens in storage and research facilities.

Equipping bio facilities with these information systems as part of the Biological Threat Reduction Programme allows the United States to secure its military contingents in deployment areas, remotely monitor biolaboratories outside of national jurisdiction and influence the biological situation around the world.

In carrying out the special military operation, materials used by United States instructors for training Ukrainian specialists in emergency response to smallpox outbreaks were discovered in biolaboratories in the territory of Ukraine.

The Pentagon's interest in this infection is far from accidental: the return of the smallpox pathogen would be a global catastrophe for all humankind.

This pathogen is just as contagious (infectious) as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), but its lethality is 10 times higher.

Back in 2003 the United States Department of Defense developed a smallpox vaccination programme that requires all United States military personnel to be vaccinated. Vaccination in the United States is mandatory for diplomatic and medical personnel. This demonstrates that the United States views smallpox as a priority pathogenic biological agent for combat use, and that vaccine prophylaxis efforts are aimed at protecting its own military contingents.

The lack of proper controls and the biosecurity violations in the United States could lead to this pathogen being used for terrorist purposes. Between 2014 and 2021, unaccounted-for vials of the virus were repeatedly found in laboratories at the Food and Drug Administration, at the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Maryland and at the Center for Vaccine Research in Pennsylvania.

The work at these organizations was carried out in violation of World Health Assembly resolution 49.10 of 1996, which stipulated that the smallpox pathogen could be stored in only one United States laboratory: the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

It should be noted that the smallpox vaccination, which is not currently available in many countries, provides protection against monkeypox.

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced an emergency meeting of member States on the outbreak of this dangerous infectious disease in May 2022.

We know that, so far, 98 per cent of those infected are men of non-traditional orientation over 20 years of age. Dr. David Heymann, the former head of the WHO emergencies department, said in an interview with the United States press that the main cause of the spread of the disease was sexual transmission of the virus.

According to a WHO report, the West African strain of monkeypox originated in Nigeria, another State where the United States has deployed its biological infrastructure.

There are reportedly at least four Washington-controlled biolaboratories operating in Nigeria.

In this regard, it is worth recalling a strange coincidence that needs further verification by experts. According to European and United States media reports, a scenario to counter the outbreak caused by a new strain of the monkeypox virus was worked out at the 2021 Munich Security Conference, i.e. against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Against the backdrop of the numerous cases of biosafety violations by the United States and the negligent storage of pathogenic biomaterials, we call on the WHO leadership to investigate the United States-funded Nigerian laboratories in Abuja, Zaria and Lagos and to inform the global community of the results.

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

1. <https://disk.yandex.ru/d/3SOE5fFsKJ3bAA>
2. <https://disk.yandex.ru/d/W7QrL3Wo6Md4PA>