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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 18 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**

I would like to bring to your attention a 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 17 March 2022, containing 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 18 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

17 March 2022

Slide 1

The Russian Ministry of Defence is continuing to study the materials obtained from staff at Ukrainian biological laboratories concerning the implementation of the biological warfare programmes of the United States and its NATO allies in Ukraine.

The Western media and some “expert biologists”, most of whom have a second citizenship in the United States, have expressed doubts about the reliability of the materials we have published. I would like to draw attention to the fact that the documents have the signatures of real officials and are certified by the seals of the organizations.

We believe that the components of biological weapons were created in Ukraine.

Slide 2

Here is a document dated 6 March 2015, confirming the Pentagon’s direct involvement in funding biological warfare projects in Ukraine.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that an agreement on joint biological activities was concluded between the United States Department of Defense and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. However, it is the laboratories of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence located in Kiev, Odessa, Lvov and Kharkov that are the real recipients of the funds. The total funding for both projects was \$32 million.

It is no coincidence that these biolaboratories were chosen by the United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the contractor company Black & Veatch to carry out the UP-8 project, aimed at studying the pathogens of Crimean-Congo fever, leptospirosis and hantaviruses. The Pentagon’s corresponding request to involve Ukrainian laboratories in the implementation of the project is shown on the slide. We believe that the interest of the United States military biologists is related to the fact that these pathogens are naturally present in both Ukraine and Russia, and so their spread could be disguised as natural outbreaks. That is why this project received additional funding and the deadline was extended.

Slide 3

Analysis of the documents in part of project P-781, a study of the pathways of disease transmission to humans through bats, showed that work was conducted at a laboratory in Kharkov in conjunction with the notorious Richard Lugar Center in Tbilisi. The Pentagon spent a total of \$1.6 million on its implementation in Ukraine and Georgia, most of which went to Ukraine as the main contractor.

The documents obtained by the Russian Ministry of Defence show that research in this area is systematic and has been conducted since at least 2009 under the direct supervision of United States specialists as part of projects P-382, P-444 and P-568.

One of the supervisors of this work was the Head of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency Office at the United States Embassy in Kiev, Joanna Wintrol. Perhaps journalists should talk to her?

In the course of those projects, six families of viruses were isolated, including coronaviruses and three types of pathogenic bacteria: plague, brucellosis and leptospirosis pathogens. Owing to their characteristics, these are the most attractive pathogens for use as infectious agents given their resistance to drugs and the rapid rate of contagion from animals to humans.

A number of documents must be noted that confirm the transfer to third countries, including Germany, Great Britain and Georgia, of bio-samples collected in Ukraine.

Here are official documents confirming the transfer to the Pentagon-affiliated Richard Lugar Center in Tbilisi of five thousand blood serum samples taken from Ukrainian citizens, as well as 773 samples transferred to a reference laboratory in Great Britain. An agreement was signed to export unlimited quantities of infectious materials to the Friedrich Loeffler Institute in Germany.

Analysis of the data suggests that the Ukrainian specialists are unaware of the potential risks involved in transferring biomaterials, are essentially kept in the dark and have no real idea of the true purpose of the research carried out.

Slide 4

The increase in the number of outbreaks of economically significant diseases in the Russian Federation and in European countries is a cause for concern. In 2021 alone, damage from avian influenza exceeded 1.7 billion roubles and 6 million poultry were destroyed. In European countries, agricultural losses from avian influenza amounted to about 2 billion euros.

As part of the Flu-Flyway project, the Kharkov Institute of Veterinary Medicine carried out research on wild birds as a vector for the transmission of avian influenza. At the same time, the conditions under which transmission processes could become uncontrollable, cause economic damage and create risks to food safety were assessed.

These documents show the involvement of the Kharkov Institute in the collection of strains of avian influenza viruses with high epidemic potential and the possible ability to spread from one species to another. The activities of this institution should be the subject of an international investigation.

Attempts to destroy biomaterials and documentation in Ukrainian laboratories continue to be reported.

Slide 5

We know that during the liquidation measures at the veterinary medicine laboratory in the village of Khlebodarskoye, serving staff members (citizens of Ukraine) were not even allowed into the building! The coordinates of this facility are shown on the slide. We used Google maps for easy verification of the information by United States journalists. The laboratory works in collaboration with the Mechnikov Anti-Plague Research Institute in Odessa, which conducts research with plague, anthrax, cholera and tularemia pathogens.

In an attempt to cover up biological waste from the laboratory in Khlebodarskoye, it was moved 120 km away towards the western border near Tarutino and Berezino. All these facts were recorded by the Ministry of Defence for a subsequent legal assessment.

The expedited destruction of documents at the Kherson biolaboratory should be mentioned.

One of the reasons for this rush may have been to conceal information about an outbreak of dirofilariasis, a mosquito-borne disease, that occurred in Kherson in 2019. The question arises why four cases of the disease were detected in February, which is unusual given the life cycle of those insects, even while taking into account the incubation period of the disease. In April 2019, representatives of the Pentagon visited local health facilities, where they reviewed the results of the epidemiological research and made copies of medical records.

However, no documentary evidence concerning this outbreak in the Kherson laboratory was found. We therefore believe that the urgency of destroying such documentary evidence can be explained by the desire to prevent Russian specialists from obtaining it.

Attention is also drawn to the fact that in 2018 there was a sharp increase in the number of cases of tuberculosis among citizens living in the Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics as a result of a new multidrug-resistant strain. These data were confirmed by specialists from the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-Being (Rospotrebnadzor). During the mass outbreak recorded near Peski, more than 70 cases of the disease were detected and quickly led to fatalities. This could indicate deliberate contamination or accidental leakage of the pathogen from one of the Ukrainian biolaboratories.

Slide 6

Under the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, the States parties submit information to the United Nations on facilities and on ongoing biological activities.

Those are confidence-building measures, which are published in order to monitor the implementation of the Convention. Since 2016, when the projects we mentioned earlier began, including UP-4, UP-8 and R-781, the United States and Ukraine have deliberately remained silent about them in their international reporting, despite their clear military-biological orientation. The funding of Ukrainian laboratories by the United States Department of Defense is not reflected in the documents. Such secrecy is another reason to wonder about the Pentagon's true goals in Ukraine.

We should like to recall historical facts about when such irresponsible activities by the United States, outside of its national jurisdiction, ended with merely formal apologies from the United States Administration. For example, in October 2010, President Obama of the United States acknowledged the fact that illegal research had been conducted on Guatemalan citizens, who had been deliberately infected with syphilis and gonorrhoea pathogens with the approval of the White House.

The Russian Federation has repeatedly called for the disclosure of data on the Pentagon's military-biological activities in third countries, but the collective West, led by the United States, has consistently blocked this initiative, preferring to conduct research "by proxy" in circumvention of international obligations.

We will continue to study the evidence and will keep the international community informed about the unlawful activity carried out by the Pentagon in Ukraine.

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

1. <https://disk.yandex.ru/i/oISVTo27IVyh7Q>
2. <https://disk.yandex.ru/d/ndINmQKPfDRM0w>