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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Letter dated 14 December 1982 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of an article entitled "The latest falsification" published in the newspaper Pravda on 2 December 1982.

I request you to have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 54.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

ANNEX

Text of an article published in the newspaper "Pravda" on 2 December 1982

THE LATEST FALSIFICATION

If someone were to compile a history of disinformation, the so-called "reports" of the United States State Department accusing the Soviet Union of using chemical weapons would be included in it as a classic example of the grossest and basest kind of libel. Each of these fabrications has been subjected to devastating criticism by many foreign scientists, experts, politicians, public figures, and reviewers. Yet the United States State Department, having taken upon itself the unsavoury function of concocting anti-Soviet falsifications, stubbornly persists in trying the patience of the public. One Secretary of State has been replaced by another, but the conveyor belt for fabricating falsifications remains in continuous operation.

The other day, the latest falsified "report" surfaced, like a murky marsh bubble, from "Foggy Bottom", the part of the capital where the State Department is situated. It consists of the usual threadbare slander about the alleged used of chemical weapons by the Soviet Union and its "allies" in Laos, Kampuchea and Afghanistan.

This publication was preceded by a resounding salvo from Washington ... through the United Nations. Over the past few years the United States administration, on a number of occasions, has publicly promised that the results of the investigation carried out by a United Nations group of experts, which allegedly would confirm the Washington version, was about to appear. That group, set up in 1980, made a number of visits to the Afghan-Pakistan border and to South-East Asia and compared the American fabrications with the facts.

The Chairman of the group of experts, Esmat Ezz, Major-General of the Egyptian medical services, said that everything possible had been done to draw up an objective and impartial report. What are the results of the investigation? Despite the importunate promptings and pressure of the United States special services, the United Nations experts did not find any confirmation of the United States version.

The hopes of the people in Washington for an international sensation had come to naught. In their irritation, they forgot about diplomatic language. K. Adelman, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, made rude attacks on the United Nations experts. He indignantly complained that they did not recognize anything except direct on-site evidence. (But what other evidence could be relied upon?) Adelman was outraged at the fact that the specialists from various countries had dared to question the accusations made by the United States. This diplomat therefore declared in a threatening tone that Washington intended to disregard the United Nations investigation. In his vehemence, he lashed out at the entire international community, asking what the United Nations could be expected to cope with if it could not cope with

that problem. Anger is a poor counsellor. By giving vent to his rage, the high-level representative of the United States demonstrated that the Washington slanderers had once again come to grief.

But even that lesson proved ineffectual. A few days later came the issuance of the aforementioned "report" prepared by staff of the State Department and special services. As if in jest, it began with the subheading "Updated findings". Yet nothing that could be described as findings can be found in the publication. There are no facts and no documentary evidence. The "report" is full of absurd rumours and hearsay attributed to anonymous "witnesses" and "eye-witnesses". This kind of "information" can be punched out mechanically absolutely anywhere and in absolutely any quantities. But it does not prove anything.

Both those who compose such "reports" and those who affix their signatures to them are well aware that there is not a grain of truth in them. The question then arises: what shall we call all this? To act in this way, knowing it to be a fraud, is, apart from anything else, amoral; yes, we throw the word in the faces of the deceivers - amoral.

The truth about who is using chemical weapons would be revealed if the correspondents at the State Department press conferences were shown the chemical grenades with United States markings which are being supplied to the hired bandits sent to Afghanistan, or the chemical bombs manufactured in the United States which are being dropped on the patriots of El Salvador by the punitive expeditions of the dictatorial junta, or the containers of toxic substances which brought death to 1.6 million Vietnamese during the years of United States aggression.

The truth about who is engaged in large-scale preparations for chemical warfare would be revealed if the public could see specimens of the 90 types of chemical ammunition to be found in the Pentagon arsenals (a total of 5 million rounds), or a model of the new binary weapon to be produced in the industrial complex now under construction at Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

The true state of affairs would become clear if it were pointed out to the public that it was the United States that unilaterally broke off the talks on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons.

In the interests of truth, it would have been useful if the United States Secretary of State, when sending the "report" to the States Members of the United Nations, had explained in his letter of transmittal why the United States had recently cast the sole vote against the draft resolution entitled "Prohibition of chemical and bacteriological weapons" in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

The bitter truth is glaringly obvious to the Washington strategists. The reason why they need anti-Soviet falsifications is that they are trying to conceal the truth. The persistent spreading of false assertions about the USSR clearly shows that they are designed to divert world attention from the extensive build-up of chemical weapons in the United States itself and to channel additional billions of dollars into its fanatical plans for using weapons of mass destruction,

including chemical weapons. This is the goal pursued by both the large-scale and the small-scale deceivers.

The manufacture of anti-Soviet falsifications has become a kind of industry in official Washington, one in which there is no recession. It fabricates falsifications designed to denigrate the most diverse aspects of the USSR's foreign policy. The enterprise is doomed to failure. No slanders can shake the high authority and prestige of the peace-loving policy of the Soviet State, which is doing everything possible to curb the arms race and to prohibit weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons.

This latest falsification will bring neither laurels nor dividends to its originators. It will only encourage the international community to examine even more closely the militaristic and bellicose actions of the United States, which it is vainly trying to conceal in an avalanche of anti-Soviet insinuations and falsifications.
