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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Letter dated 20 June 1989 from the Chargés d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Missions of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you the text of the joint declaration adopted on 14 June 1989 during the State visit by Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR by Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union (see annex).

We request you to circulate this text as an official document of the General Assembly under item 62 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Hans-Joachim VERGAU
Acting Permanent Representative
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations

(Signed) Sergey N. SMIRNOV
Acting Permanent Representative
of the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics to the United Nations

* A/44/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Joint declaration by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of
the Federal Republic of Germany and of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics adopted at Bonn on 14 June 1989

The Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union regard the early conclusion and entry into force of a convention on the global, comprehensive and effectively verifiable prohibition of chemical weapons as a priority goal of their arms control and disarmament efforts. They consider the Paris Conference on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to be a major step towards achieving that goal and underline the importance of the final declaration of that Conference.

Both sides agreed on the urgent necessity to translate the results of the Paris Conference into progress in the current negotiations of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament so that the convention on chemical weapons will be ready for signature at the earliest date. For their part, they express the intention to be among the original signatories of the convention.

The Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union attach utmost importance to the establishment of strict international control that would ensure the highest degree of confidence among all participants that the convention's provisions are being complied with. The two sides declare their readiness to support any verification measure conducive to greater security. They are in favour of thoroughly elaborated procedures of systematic verification and the system of mandatory challenge inspections being included in the convention.

The two sides advocate a solution to the question of non-production of chemical weapons in industry that ensures a balance between the need for the most careful verification and the legitimate industrial and commercial interests of the participants in the convention. In this context, they welcome national and international test inspections for trying out verification procedures on the non-production of chemical weapons with a view to developing optimum verification procedures.

The Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union attach special significance to confidence-building and regard practical measures in this field as an effective means of promoting the early conclusion of the convention. The two sides have agreed to step up efforts aimed at greater openness and further exchange of the data required for progress at the negotiations.

The Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union have agreed to intensify bilateral discussions on all aspects of the prohibition of chemical weapons and for this purpose have agreed to hold their expert consultations at Geneva on a regular basis.

Both sides express their deep concern at the spread of chemical weapons. They agree that the entry into force of a global and comprehensive ban would be the only lasting solution to the problem of chemical weapons. Notwithstanding the

foregoing, they consider it an important task to take effective measures in the mean time to prevent the proliferation of chemical weapons. They concur that the continued spread of chemical weapons confronts the community of nations with grave responsibility that no Government can evade.
