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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) **WI APONS**

**Letter dated 25 September 1989 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Secretary of
State of the United States of America addressed to the
Secretary-General**

We have the honour to transmit to you the text of the joint United
States-Soviet statement on chemical weapons of 23 September 1989 (**see annex**).

We request you to circulate this text as a document of the **forty-fourth**
session of the General Assembly under item 62 of its agenda.

(Signed) Eduard **A. SHEVARDNADZE**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics

(Signed) James **A. BAKER, III**
Secretary of State
of the United States of
America

Annex

JOINT STATEMENT ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS

During their meeting on 22 and 23 September 1989, at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Secretary of State James A. Baker, III and Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze reaffirmed the **commitment** of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to pursue aggressively the prohibition of chemical weapons and the destruction of **all stockpiles** of **such** weapons on the basis of a comprehensive, effectively verifiable and truly global ban. Both sides consider the early conclusion and entry into force of a convention to this effect to be one of the highest priorities for the international community. They believe that with the active and constructive participation of all States it will be possible to resolve expeditiously the remaining **issues** and to conclude the convention at the earliest date, and call upon all parties to the negotiations to join them in achieving this objective.

The two sides also believe that greater openness between them and among other countries could contribute to the prospects for reaching an early agreement on an effective ban on chemical weapons. As a concrete expression of the commitment of their two countries toward this end, the Secretary of State and the Foreign Minister signed a memorandum of understanding regarding a bilateral verification experiment and data exchange. The steps agreed upon in the Memorandum are intended to facilitate the process of negotiation, signature and ratification of a comprehensive, effectively verifiable and truly global convention on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons.

The verification experiment and data exchange will be conducted in two phases. Phase I involves the exchange of **general** data on the sides' chemical weapons capabilities and a series of visits to relevant military and civil facilities on their respective territories. In phase II the sides will exchange detailed data and permit on-site inspections to verify the accuracy of the information exchanged.

The sides also agreed to undertake a co-operative effort with respect to the destruction of chemical weapons. They agreed to reciprocal visits to monitor destruction operations of the other side, and to the exchange of **information** on past, current and planned destruction activities and procedures.

The sides noted their **agreement** on **some** procedures for conducting challenge inspections and on the provisions governing the order of destruction of chemical weapons and of chemical weapons production facilities. These two **approaches** will be introduced into the **multilateral** negotiations at Geneva in an effort to contribute to those negotiations. They **also** stressed the need to concentrate in the near future on resolving remaining verification-related issues. The two sides intend to pursue intensively their bilateral discussions on a chemical weapons ban with the view to helping to achieve further progress in the multilateral negotiations.

The **Secretary of State** and the Foreign Minister expressed their grave concern about the growing **danger** posed to international peace and security by the **risk** of the illegal use of chemical weapons **as** long as such weapons exist and are spread. They reaffirmed the importance of, and their commitment to, the final declaration of the Paris Conference on the **prohibition** of chemical weapons held earlier this year as well as their commitment to the 1925 Geneva **Protocol**. The two sides **emphasized** the obligation of all States not to use **chemical** weapons in violation of international law and **urged** that prompt and effective **measures** be taken by the **international community** if that obligation is violated. In this regard, they underscored **their** support for the Secretary-General of the United Nations in investigating reports of violations **of** the Geneva Protocol or other relevant rules of customary international law.

The sides welcomed Australia's **convening** of a government-industry **conference** against chemical weapons, which has just concluded at Canberra. They noted that the **conference** had provided an important opportunity for serious discussion between government and industry representatives from around the world. The sides expressed satisfaction with the extensive and productive work accomplished at the conference and the positive **results** reflected in the Chairman's final summary statement.

Finally, the sides expressed the view that a truly global, comprehensive and effectively verifiable ban on chemical **weapons** was the best means to address the threat posed by the spread of chemical weapons on a durable long-term basis. In the meantime, the sides emphasized their readiness to attempt to prevent the proliferation of chemical weapons. They intend to continue consultations on this issue.