

Conference on Disarmament

18 September 2020
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Note Verbale dated 18 September from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and transmitting the Commentary of the Informal and Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation concerning the situation with Mr. Alexei Navalny

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) H.E. Ms. Tatiana Valovaya and has the honour to transmit herewith the Commentary of the Information and Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation concerning the situation with Mr. Alexei Navalny.

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation would highly appreciate if this Commentary could be issued as an official document of the 2020 CD session and circulated to all Member States and Observer States of the Conference.

The Permanent Mission avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the CD and the Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.



Comments by the Information and Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia on the situation surrounding Alexei Navalny (17 September 2020)

We have taken note of the controversy that has arisen at the instigation of Berlin, Paris, Stockholm and, probably, Washington, as the main “keeper” of Euro-Atlantic “solidarity” in the world, over the requests by the Russian Procurator General’s Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the findings made in laboratories designated by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Sweden related to the alleged poisoning of Alexei Navalny with an agent from the Novichok group.

We consider it particularly negative that the Federal Republic of Germany has refused to cooperate with the Russian law enforcement agencies and has secretly transferred Mr. Navalny’s biological materials to its trusted partners. This was clearly done for political reasons so that Paris and Stockholm could automatically confirm Berlin’s unfounded accusations against Russia.

It is difficult today not to recall the events of 2018 when Sweden, at the climax of the extended hysteria in the West over the “Skripal case”, assured us that the research laboratory of the Swedish Defence Research Agency in the town of Umeå, which has now confirmed Mr. Navalny’s “poisoning”, did not have and could not have had any Novichok samples. In fact, as it turned out, the Swedish specialists were competent enough to determine “with 100 percent accuracy” the presence of this toxic agent in the Russian blogger’s biological materials. To quote Ms. Åsa Scott, a representative of the Agency, speaking to the publication *Der Spiegel*, they can “clearly confirm that the sample from Mr. Navalny contained a neurotoxin from the Novichok group. Neurotoxins from the Novichok group are extremely toxic. A drop can kill.”

Against this background, it is telling that, throughout the past week, official representatives of the OPCW Technical Secretariat simply shrugged their shoulders in response to our questions, saying that OPCW was not at all involved in the affair. Meanwhile, the French-Anglo-Saxon team of functionaries who dominate the Technical Secretariat were carrying out an entire covert “operation” to collect additional biological material from Mr. Navalny, which was submitted for analysis to two more OPCW-designated laboratories. We would not be surprised if these end up being the Swiss Spiez and the British Porton Down laboratories which featured prominently in the “Skripal case”.

Regrettably, we have to state that the Western countries have crossed all the lines and turned the once authoritative OPCW into a dirty tool for pursuing their destructive designs.
