

**FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE  
STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION  
ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE  
DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND  
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL  
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS  
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

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**BACKGROUND DOCUMENT ON COMPLIANCE BY STATES PARTIES  
WITH ALL THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION ON  
THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND  
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND  
TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Prepared by the Secretariat

Addendum

1. In paragraph 22 of its report (BWC/CONF.V/PC/1), the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction decided to request the Secretariat to compile a background document on compliance by States Parties with all their obligations under the Convention. The Preparatory Committee, furthermore, decided that for the purpose of preparing this document, the Secretariat would request States Parties to provide information regarding compliance with all the provisions of the Convention.

2. The present document contains the information provided by States Parties to the Secretariat, as of 14 November 2001, pursuant to paragraph 22 of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

1. The following information is supplied in response to the Preparatory Committee decision to request the Secretariat to compile a background information document on compliance by States Parties with all their obligations under the Convention. (BWC/CONF.V/PC/1, paragraph 22, page 4)

Article I

2. Since its ratification of the Convention, the United Kingdom has not developed, produced, stockpiled or otherwise acquired or retained biological agents or toxins of types or in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective of other peaceful purposes. Quantities of potential biological and toxin warfare agents are held for protective, prophylactic or other peaceful purposes. These are held under strict supervision and control. No delivery systems designed to use these agents for hostile purposes or in warfare exist, nor

are any being developed.

#### Article II

3. The provisions of the Convention's Article II impose obligations only upon those States Parties which possess or have under their jurisdiction or control, biological agents and toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery specified in Article I. Since its ratification of the Convention the United Kingdom is not in this category.

#### Article III

4. The United Kingdom complies with the obligations specified in this Article. The export control provisions through which the United Kingdom fulfils its obligations not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever any of the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment or means of delivery specified in Article I are provided for under the following legislation:

- The Export of Goods (Control) Order 1994.
- Council Regulation (EC) 1334/2000 setting up a European Community regime for the control of exports of dual-use items and technology. The regulation was adopted in June 2000.

5. The Export of Goods (Control) Order is a Statutory Instrument issued under the Import, Export and Customs (Powers) Act 1939. The Export Control Bill introduced to Parliament on 26 June 2001 will replace the 1939 Act. New secondary legislation under the Export Control Bill will replace the Export of Goods (Control) Order.

6. The Export Control Bill will contain powers to control the transfer of technology by intangible means. This will include regulating research activities in areas of potential application to weapons of mass destruction.

7. The Emergency Anti-Terrorism Bill will include provisions to make it an offence to aid or abet a foreigner overseas from using, developing, engaging in military preparations or preparations of a military nature intending to use a nuclear, chemical or biological weapon. It will also introduce offences in relation to biological and nuclear weapons equivalent to those already contained in the Chemical Weapons Act 1996, which prohibits the use, development, production, possession and transfer of chemical weapons, and preparations of a military nature to use such weapons.

8. Work is also underway to review UK domestic controls on the internal transfer of specified pathogens and toxins.

#### Article IV

9. The Biological Weapons Act was enacted on 8 February 1974. This legislation makes the prohibitions in the Convention part of domestic criminal law and specifies penalties for

offences for violations of the Act. It provides for powers of search and confiscation. There have been no prosecutions under the Act since it became law.

#### Article V

10. The United Kingdom was chairman of the Consultative Meeting convened in 1997.

#### Article VII

11. The United Kingdom ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention on 13 May 1996. A National Authority has been established in the Department of Trade and Industry to implement the Convention in the United Kingdom. Under the terms of the Chemical Weapons Convention Act 1996 the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry is required to prepare a report on its operations in each calendar year, and to lay a copy of the report before each House of Parliament.

12. The CWC National Authority Advisory Committee was created to advise Ministers on the actions taken by the National Authority to ensure UK compliance with the CWC and the Act. The eight person Committee, which comprises representatives from academia, industry and Government meets twice a year under an independent chairman. The Committee also advises on the production of the Annual report to Parliament.

#### Article X

13. The United Kingdom supports and is actively involved in the exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin agents for peaceful purposes. The UK co-operates with other States Parties and international organisations towards the further development and application of scientific discoveries in relevant fields for the prevention of disease and for other peaceful purposes. Some *examples* of UK activities in combating infectious disease in humans, animals and plants over the last five years include:

- The G8 Meeting on Infectious diseases in December 2000 outlined key principles that will underpin the efforts of the G8, European Commission and UN agencies to develop a new global partnership to tackle the major communicable diseases in the next 10-15 years. The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) will continue to work with multilateral organisations to help strengthen existing international mechanisms, so that that can provide appropriate support to developing countries.
- The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization supports governments in strengthening routine immunization and introduction of new vaccines. The UK provided £3 million to the Alliance in 2000/01 and is helping to further refine the Alliance's strategy.
- In many countries in Africa and Asia the UK is supporting nationally led multilateral AIDS control programmes. For example, in Kenya the UK has invested £25 million over five years to support the implementation of the government's national AIDS control

programme.

- The UK provided £35 million to WHO in 2000 to support the polio eradication campaign. This money builds on specific country and regional investments and reinforces the UK's engagement in the global initiative. Since 1995 the UK has contributed £165 million to the polio eradication effort.
- In 2001 the UK announced a contribution of £200 million to the new Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB.
- As part of the UK's Veterinary Laboratories Agency role as an International Reference Laboratory, it has received and screened several influenza isolates in order to identify an avirulent strain related to H5N1, causing disease in poultry and humans in Hong Kong. One isolate has been proposed as a possible candidate for use in the development of human vaccines.
- The Institute for Animal Health (IAH) at Pirbright provides a number of training courses, mostly aimed at equipping groups of scientists from developing countries with the techniques necessary for the implementation of disease control and surveillance programmes. These courses are held both within the Institute and abroad. Currently four-week training modules composed of lectures, demonstrations and practical exercises are run annually at the IAH on: laboratory diagnosis of rinderpest, peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and bluetongue; ELISA techniques and cell cultures for foot and mouth disease, swine vesicular disease and vesicular stomatitis viruses; principles and applications of ELISA for disease diagnosis; polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for the diagnosis of foot and mouth disease and rinderpest.
- During the 1990s staff at the UK's Natural Resources Institute undertook a major project investigating the role of the wind in the airborne dispersal of the fungal pathogens (*Mycosphaerella* spp) causing Sigatoka diseases in banana and plantain. Sigatoka diseases cause major reductions in fruit quality and plant yield, and this investigation involved studies of the dispersal of airborne spores within and outside infected plantations. The results of fieldwork in Uganda and Costa Rica greatly enhanced knowledge of the epidemiology of these major diseases, identifying the constraints on spore dispersal and, hence, quantifying the need to protect isolated banana-growing areas.
- Training courses in quality control for commercial producers of microbial pesticides in India sponsored by DFID and a training course for Indian scientists on insect viruses for control of forest pests (Oxford Forestry Institute/UK Forestry Commission).

#### Article XIV and Article XV

14. The United Kingdom has fulfilled its obligations as a Depositary power.