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**General Assembly
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Agenda item 107**Convention on the Prohibition of the Development,
Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological)
and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction****Security Council
Seventy-seventh year****Identical letters dated 19 April 2022 from the Permanent
Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the
Security Council**

I would like to bring to your attention the presentation made by the Chief of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, Lieutenant General I. A. Kirillov, during his briefing on 14 April 2022, containing additional materials regarding military biological programmes on the territory of Ukraine (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vassily Nebenzia



Annex to the identical letters dated 19 April 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian]

Briefing by Lieutenant General I. A. Kirillov, Chief of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops of the Russian Federation Armed Forces

14 April 2022

Owing to the special military operation by Russian troops, it has been possible to obtain additional information about United States biological warfare-related activities conducted in the territory of Ukraine that confirms numerous violations of the Biological Weapons Convention.

Taking advantage of existing gaps in international law and the lack of a clear verification mechanism, the United States Administration has been consistently building up its biological warfare capabilities in various regions of the world.

The Russian Federation has continuously advocated for a verification mechanism under the Biological Weapons Convention, but that initiative has been consistently blocked by the collective West, led by the United States, since 2001.

The existing Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological or Toxin Weapons and the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare do not cover the verification of biological activities by States parties. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, based in The Hague, has no such authority either.

We have previously outlined the pattern of United States coordination of the work of biological laboratories and scientific research institutes in Ukraine.

One component is the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU), a non-public organization that at first glance has nothing to do with the Pentagon.

The Russian Ministry of Defence has managed to uncover its role in the biological warfare-related activities of the United States in the territory of Ukraine.

According to its statutory documents, STCU is an international intergovernmental organization established to prevent the proliferation of knowledge and expertise related to weapons of mass destruction.

Its legal status is defined by the Agreement of 25 October 1993 concluded between the Governments of Ukraine, Canada, the United States and Sweden, and by the Protocol to Amend the Agreement dated 7 July 1997.

STCU is headquartered in Kiev and has regional offices in Baku, Chisinau and Tbilisi, as well as in Kharkov and Lvov.

However, the Expert Centre for Chemical and Biological Threats of the Russian Ministry of Defence has established that STCU has been acting mainly as a grant distribution centre for research that is of interest to the Pentagon, including in the area of biological weapons.

In recent years alone, Washington has spent more than \$350 million on STCU projects.

The clients and sponsors of STCU are the United States Department of State and Department of Defense. Funding is also provided through the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Departments of Agriculture, Health and Energy.

Note also a document prepared by the supervisors of STCU, dated 11 March 2022, which highlights the true nature of this organization. This document notes that there has been an outflow of scientific experts involved in the development of means of delivery and modern weapons who have worked for Ukrainian institutions, and of experts involved in the development of biological, radiological, chemical and nuclear weapons; that the best-trained specialists with experience of working with dual-use materials and technologies (from 1,000 to 4,000 people) have found themselves in unfavourable professional and financial circumstances; and that this makes them vulnerable to transferring their allegiance to other States to participate in programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction, means of delivery and other weaponry.

By using such language, Washington is in fact acknowledging the work carried out by Ukrainian experts to develop means of delivery and use of weapons of mass destruction, and that it considers it appropriate to continue funding such work.

Here are the names of the officials who were involved in the biological warfare-related programmes.

The post of STCU Executive Director is held by Curtis Bjelajac, a citizen of the United States. Born on 27 August 1968 in California, he attended the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Anderson School of Management. He holds a master's degree in international finance and has worked in Ukraine since 1994.

The Chair of the Board of STCU is Eddie Arthur Maier from the European Union. The Governing Board member from the United States is Phil Dolliff, who serves at the State Department as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Non-proliferation Programmes.

The documents obtained by the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence confirm that STCU has ties to the United States Department of Defense. This slide shows a formal recommendation from the United States Department of State approving STCU cooperation with the Pentagon's prime contractor, Black and Veatch. In correspondence, the Vice President of this company, Matthew Webber, expressed a willingness to work with STCU on ongoing biological warfare-related research in Ukraine.

From 2014 to 2022, STCU implemented more than 500 research projects in countries of the post-Soviet area (Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and Azerbaijan).

The United States supervisors were primarily interested in dual-use research, such as project 6166 on the development of technologies for modelling, assessing and predicting the effects of conflicts and threats from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and project 9601 on the transfer to the European Union of Ukrainian technologies for the production of complex dual-use materials.

Many of the projects were aimed at studying potential biological weapons agents (plague and tularemia) and the pathogens of economically significant infections (pathogenic avian influenza and African swine fever).

Projects P-364, 444 and 781, aimed at studying the spread of dangerous pathogens through insect vectors, wild birds and bats, were funded by the Center directly for the Department of Defense.

Note the documents from project 3007 on monitoring the epidemiological and ecological situation regarding dangerous waterborne diseases in Ukraine.

During their work, Ukrainian specialists, supervised by United States scientists, systematically took water samples from a number of major rivers in Ukraine, including the Dnieper, Danube and Dniester, as well as from the North Crimean Canal, in order to determine the presence of particularly dangerous pathogens, including cholera, typhoid and hepatitis A and E pathogens, and to draw conclusions about their possible spread through water.

As part of the project, the destructive properties of the selected samples were evaluated, and the strains themselves were deposited in a collection and subsequently exported to the United States.

Here is a map of the water resources of Ukraine. Analysis of this map shows that the results of the work carried out could be used to create an unfavourable biological situation not only in the territory of the Russian Federation, but also in the waters of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, as well as in Eastern Europe (Belarus, Moldova and Poland).

Our concern about Washington's activities in Ukraine stems from the fact that, contrary to its international obligations, the United States has retained provisions in its national legislation that permit the conduct of activities relating to biological weapons.

The United States ratified the 1925 Geneva Protocol with a number of reservations, one of which allows for the retaliatory use of chemical and toxin weapons.

Under the "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act", research relating to the development of biological weapons is permitted with the approval of the United States Government. Participants in such research are not held criminally liable for the development of such weapons.

In this way, the United States Administration is applying to this field of activity the principle that domestic law takes precedence over international law. The most ethically controversial studies are being conducted outside national jurisdiction.

For example, during the special operation in Ukraine it has been established that, from 2019 to 2021, United States scientists from a laboratory in the city of Merefa (Kharkov province) were testing potentially dangerous biological drugs on patients at provincial clinical psychiatric hospital No. 3 in the city of Kharkov.

Individuals with mental disorders were selected for experiments on the basis of age, ethnicity and immune status. Special forms were used to record the results from 24-hour monitoring of the patients' condition. The information was not entered into the hospital database and the staff of the medical facility were given non-disclosure agreements to sign.

In January 2022, the laboratory in Merefa was shut down and all the equipment and drugs were moved to western Ukraine.

There are a number of witnesses to these inhuman experiments whose names we cannot disclose in the interests of their safety.

Lastly, we recall our description at a previous briefing of a technical device for the delivery and application of biological formulations that had been patented in the United States.

We had also noted that Ukraine had sent a request to the manufacturer of Bayraktar unmanned aerial vehicles enquiring about the possibility of equipping them with aerosol equipment.

It is a matter of concern that, on 9 March, three unmanned aerial vehicles equipped with 30-litre containers and equipment for spraying formulations were discovered in Kherson province by the reconnaissance units of Russian troops.

In January 2022, Ukraine reportedly purchased, through intermediary organizations, more than 50 such devices that can be used to apply biological formulations and toxic chemicals.

We are continuing to analyse the documentary evidence of the crimes of the United States Administration and the Kiev regime in Ukraine.

The presentation and materials on military-biological activities on the territory of Ukraine are available through the following links:

1. <https://disk.yandex.ru/d/f9KgolQWhxXueA>
 2. <https://disk.yandex.ru/d/GWeH18ux9aL17g>
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