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Item 54 of the preliminary list*

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Letter dated 7 April 1982 from the Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a note dated 5 April 1982 from the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Government of the United States.

I request, Sir, that you circulate this note as an official document of the General Assembly under item 54 of the preliminary list.

O. TROYANOVSKY

* A/37/50.

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Note dated 5 April 1982 from the Government of the USSR to
the Government of the United States

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics considers it necessary to state the following to the Government of the United States of America.

For some time, a slanderous campaign in which government organs have taken part has been waged in the United States, the aim of which is to attribute to the USSR participation in the use of chemical weapons alleged to have taken place in Laos, Kampuchea and Afghanistan. In an attempt to pass off deception as truth, cast a shadow on the consistently peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union and poison the international atmosphere still further, the United States State Department recently published a report consisting of a collection of fabrications from which it could only be concluded that the American Administration has no evidence whatsoever for the accusations it is making, and cannot have any.

The Soviet Union strictly observes its international obligations. True to the Geneva Protocol of 1925, the USSR has never itself resorted to using chemical weapons anywhere, nor has it transferred them to other countries. It is precisely the Soviet Union which has always insistently called upon the United States and other States to conclude an agreement on prohibiting the development and production of poisonous substances and destroying stocks of them under effective control.

With the aid of its fabrications about the use of Soviet-made chemical weapons in Laos and Kampuchea, the United States would like to cover up the traces of the monstrous crimes which it committed against the peoples of Indo-China during its military intervention in the region. But the nations remember about that: they remember the hundreds of thousands of people who suffered the effects of the large-scale use of poisonous substances by American troops in Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea, and the irreparable harm inflicted by those substances on people, the national economy and the environment. All that is incontrovertible fact.

It is also a fact that the gangs of interventionists in Afghanistan are trying to use American-made chemical weapons. And there is material evidence of this; it is well known.

It is also evident that the propaganda show being performed in Washington is intended to try to distract attention from the plans announced by the American Administration for the large-scale manufacture of new types of deadly chemical substances, i.e., for preparations for war in which these barbarous means of mass destruction would be used.

The United States also needed all this slander to conceal its own unwillingness to negotiate for the purpose of concluding an agreement on prohibiting the development and production of chemical weapons and destroying stocks of them, as insistently demanded by the United Nations and the world public. In addition, the United States Government is attempting to undermine those

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understandings already operative in the arms-limitation field and is blocking efforts to arrive at vitally important new agreements.

People in Washington must realize clearly what a serious responsibility they are taking on themselves in this connexion.

The Government of the USSR resolutely protests to the Government of the United States about the dissemination of slander against the Soviet Union. Such conduct is unacceptable and impermissible in relations between States.
