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Written statement* submitted by Planetary Association for Clean Energy, Inc., The, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



The United States Of America And The Release Of ‘Bug-Borne’ Bioweapons During The Cold War

During the Cold War, the United States of America military ran a secret entomological weapons program where fleas, mosquitoes, ticks, and other insects were filled with disease-causing microbes, with the intent of releasing them on enemies [1].

The military also developed airborne biological agents that could be sprayed over large areas [2], and many of these organisms continued to spread by mammals, fleas, mosquitoes, and/or ticks long after the United States of America’s biological weapons program ended.

The United States of America Army summarized the advantages of bug-borne bioweapons in a 1959 report: “they inject the agent directly into the body, so that a mask is no protection to a soldier, and they will remain alive for some time, keeping an area constantly dangerous.” [3]

The long-term health effects of these “living weapons” on the health of humans and the environment can be as devastating as nuclear fallout, and the human and societal damages could be construed as a violation of the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons, one of the instruments of international law aimed at reducing the suffering caused by war. [4]

Emerging evidence reveals that the United States of America military conducted uncontrolled releases of pathogen-loaded ticks and insects, and aerosolized tick-borne diseases both inside and outside of the United States of America borders, and this could be contributing to the sharp increase in tick-borne disease illness worldwide. Disclosures include:

- A CIA-funded operation where infected ticks were dropped from an airplane on Cuban sugarcane workers in 1962. [5] To optimize pathogen-in-tick combinations for different climates and military objectives, bioweapons researchers force-fed ticks through glass capillary tubes with agents like Q fever (*Coxiella burnetii*), tularemia (*Bacterium tularense*), Weil’s disease (*Leptospira icterohaemorrhagiae*), Western equine encephalitis virus, epidemic typhus (*Rickettsia prowazekii*), Asiatic Relapsing Fever (*Borrelia latychevi*), *Leptospira pomona*, and the rabies virus. [6] [Fig. 1]
- An army-funded university researcher who worked as a contractor to the United States of America entomological warfare program released hundreds of thousands of radioactive ticks in Montana and on the Atlantic Bird Flyway from 1966 to 1969, potentially spreading non-native ticks and unnatural diseases along from the coast of Canada to South America via migratory birds. [7]
- The discoverer of the Lyme disease bacterium, Swiss-American scientist Willy Burgdorfer, admitted that he worked in the United States of America biological weapons program and that he believed the original 1968 disease outbreak of three novel tick-borne diseases (Lyme, babesiosis, and spotted fever) around Lyme, Connecticut, was started by a bioweapons-related accident. He was asked to suppress his evidence. [8] These disease-carrying ticks are moving into Canada as winters become milder. Researchers have found that between 2000 and 2015, Lyme risk doubled in the province of Quebec and tripled in Manitoba. [9]
- There are unconfirmed accounts of the United States of America’s entomological weapons use during the Korean War and the Viet Nam War, but historians and journalists have been unable to verify these due to the iron-grip secrecy that the United States of America maintains on related records. [10] [Fig. 2]
- There are unconfirmed reports that the United States of America’s entomological warfare program set up an active mosquito testing program in subarctic Canada in 1949 and that they released three million radioactive mosquitoes in 1950. There were also aerosol tests of tick-borne tularemia. This testing coincided with a mysterious epidemic that struck several Eskimo villages, killing 20% of those afflicted. [11]
- In 1947, Hitler’s top biological weapons expert, Dr. Kurt Blome, began consulting for the CIA’s Special Operations Division in Camp Detrick, working in a lab at Camp

King near Frankfurt. He shared information on weaponizing flea-borne plague, rinderpest, and foot-and-mouth pathogens, but details are still classified. [12] In 1956, an East German news bureau reported that American planes dropped “large amounts of potato bugs” near Zwickau. The Czech government alleges that it ruined their potato harvest. [13] [Fig. 3]

Known tick-borne bioweapons agents included tularemia, encephalitis viruses, spotted fever rickettsia, and reoviruses such as Colorado tick fever virus. [14] Disclosures should include locations where the organisms were released via open-air experiments, accidents, and deployments of these biological weapons both inside and outside of the United States of America from 1949 through 1975.

In addition, research on how these agents cause disease and what protective vaccines and/or treatments were developed to protect the United States of America soldiers should be shared. With this knowledge, public health officials could more effectively test for and treat the long-lasting illnesses caused by these agents.

Journalists’ requests to obtain entomological bioweapons documents through Freedom of Information processes are frequently stonewalled or rejected. [15] And when the United States of America Congressman Christopher Smith (R-NJ) called for investigations into the United States of America Department of Defense’s entomological bioweapons operations, his amendments were thwarted. [16]

Similar investigations into the military’s use of the Agent Orange defoliant in Viet Nam, live biological agents released in the Shipboard Hazard and Defense Program (SHAD) on North American coasts and in the Pacific, and the CIA-run mind-control experiments, all resulted in millions in compensation for damages to long-term health and the environment.

In the last few decades, the health impact of tick-borne diseases has reached alarming levels around the world. In the United States of America alone, Lyme disease cases have risen steadily, hitting a record annual high of 475,000 in 2019. [17] And reported cases of tick-borne diseases have doubled in the last 13 years. [18]

There is no vaccine or reliable testing for Lyme disease and the recommended treatment protocols fail patients somewhere between 10% to 36% percent of the time. [19] Medical costs for Lyme disease are estimated to be between US\$712M to \$1.3B each year in the United States of America [20] And non-native ticks seeded by the bioweapons program continue to be transported by birds, mammals, and pets, spreading disease across country borders.

It has been fifty years since the United States of America’s entomological warfare program ended, and, by law, most of the related records should’ve been released after 37 years. Declassifying these documents would answer the historical questions raised here, including whether the three, highly virulent tick-borne diseases that suddenly appeared and began spreading outwards from Lyme, Connecticut were the result of an accidental release by the military in the late 1960s. [21]

Fixing the situation is going to require extraordinary efforts. Disease-carrying ticks and insects continuously move into new territories. The United States of America medical system is still reluctant to test for and treat Lyme disease and tick co-infections. The United States of America is underfunding tick-disease research. If the world’s tick disease problem was sparked by the United States of America’s releases here and abroad, we need it exposed so we can more intelligently tackle the problem.

It is hoped that international pressure will motivate the United States of America military to release the details of biological releases, accidental or not, in the United States of America and abroad. The public has the right to know what organisms were released and what protective vaccine or treatments were developed for their own soldiers. Only then can the world effectively manage the spread of these manipulated, disease-causing ticks and insects and develop effective diagnostic tools and treatments for specific geographic regions.

Considering the evidence, PACE would like to kindly request that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights call for a fact-finding mission and/or the declassification of the United States of America’s records related to the development and deployment of

insects/arachnids as biological weapons, and of weaponized microbes that can be spread by these bugs.

If the military has nothing to hide, then why won't they release the classified entomological bioweapons documents to prove it?

References 1-21: <http://www.nuremberg2.org/un/references14.pdf>