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SEC DEF MEETING ~~SECRET~~ DEFENSE MINISTER

"CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) ARMS CONTROL"

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
Authority: EO 13526
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Date: DEC 16 2012

BACKGROUND

(U) - Bilateral/multilateral efforts from 1970s toward comprehensive CW ban. Soviets participated, but not apparently interested.

(U) - U.S. treaty text tabled at Conference on Disarmament in 1984.

(U) - Soviet shift in posture during 1987. They announced, for the first time, that they actually had CW and began to behave as if they wanted a treaty prohibiting it.

~~(S)~~ - Soviet announced stockpile [redacted]. We do not believe that number; [redacted]. At present, the intelligence community is officially agnostic; a new estimate may be developing. The Soviets have been told in several negotiations that there is a good deal of skepticism about their figure.

Army 3.3(b)(1)

(U) - President Bush's initiative:

OSD 3.3(b)(6)

(U) - Reaffirms commitment to total ban.

~~(S)~~ - Proposes bilateral arrangement for a U.S.-Soviet mutually observed, cooperative destruction program. Each side would destroy down to a stockpile size that is about 20% of the current U.S. stockpile. [redacted]

OSD 3.3(b)(4)

Army 3.3(b)(2), (4), (5)

(U) - Declares that after a treaty is signed, provided the Soviets sign, the U.S. would destroy about 98% of its stockpile (presumably calculated from the now current stockpile) during the first eight years. It would destroy the remaining 2% over the following two years, providing all CW capable states had signed the treaty. If some had not, the destruction process would hold at the 2%.

(U) - The binary modernization program is to go forward so that our residual capability, whatever its level, will be safe and effective.

(U) - Current law requires that the U.S. unitary stockpile be destroyed by 30 April 1997 (with the possibility of a 10 % hold back for security reasons.) The Army believes that date can be met.

~~(S)~~ - Retrograde is to be completed NLT December, 1990. That date is less firm.

TALKING POINTS

- Welcome CW breakthroughs made in Wyoming and represented by President's September 25 UNGA speech.

- (Draw on unclassified portions of Background for further discussion.)

Prepared by [redacted]

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Army 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6)

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OSD

5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6)

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