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E127

ACTION PM-00

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-10 ACDE-06 EUR-01 UTED-00 TEDE-00 INR-00
PMB-00 /011W

-----7DB792 192217Z /38

P R 192115Z NOV 96
FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//ATSD-NCB//
TO USDAO MOSCOW RS//DCP//
INFO USDAO MOSCOW RS//CWDSO//
SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//EUR/ISCA//
SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//ACDA//
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//ASD-ISP/TRP/CTR//
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//ATSD-NCB/CTR//
DSWA WASHINGTON DC//PMR//
OSIA WASHINGTON DC//IOC//
FM CML DEMIL ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND MD//SFAE-CD-T//

UNCLAS

SUBJECT: SSD/CTR: CTR RUSSIAN CW DESTRUCTION SUPPORT PROGRAM:
LETTER TO GEN-COL PETROV, COMMANDER, RADIATION, CHEMICAL AND
BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE FORCES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, MINISTRY OF
DEFENSE, RUSSIA FROM DR. HAROLD SMITH, ATSD-NCB

REF: AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA AND THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON CONVENTIONAL
PROBLEMS OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
CONCERNING THE SAFE, SECURE AND ECOLOGICALLY SOUND DESTRUCTION OF
CHEMICAL WEAPONS, 30 JULY 1992.

1. UNCLASSIFIED - ENTIRE TEXT. ACTION REQUEST PARA 3.

2. BACKGROUND. DURING THE CHEMSIG-4 MEETING HELD IN MOSCOW ON
OCTOBER 21, 1996, GEN-LT KHOLSTOV INFORMED (b)(6) THAT THE
MOD IS PLANNING TO CONFIRM THE SITE OF THE SHCHUCH'YE CW DESTRUCTION
FACILITY (CWDF) BY MID-1997 (3RD QUARTER), AND RECEIVE THE FINAL LAND
ALLOCATION AND CONSTRUCTION PERMIT AFTER COMPLETION OF THE CWDF
DESIGN BY THE END OF 1998. IN RESPONSE TO (b)(6) REQUEST,
GEN-LT KHOLSTOV PROMISED TO PROVIDE THE RUSSIAN PROPSAL (FOR THIS
ACCELERATED SCHEDULE) IN WRITING AT THE NEXT WORKING SESSION ON 22
OCTOBER. ON 22 OCTOBER, THE MOD REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED PAUL MCNELLY
THAT THE DOCUMENTATION PROMISED WOULD NOT BE PROVIDED UNTIL 15
NOVEMBER. NOW THE CWDSO HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE MOD IS TOO BUSY
TO PROVIDE THE REQUESTED INFORMATION. THIS LETTER CONFIRMS THE DOD
POSITION SUPPORTING ACCELERATION OF THE SHCHUCH'YE CWDF CONSTRUCTION
APPROVAL PROCESS AND OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE MOD COMMITMENT TO
PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION TO SUBSTANTIATE THE MOD PROPOSED ACCELERATED
APPROVAL PROCESS SCHEDULE.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY FORWARD THE FOLLOWING LETTER (PARA 4) TO THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE AND THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE LETTER HAS BEEN FACSIMILED
TO THE CWDSO WHICH HAS PREPARED THE NECESSARY TRANSLATIONS.

4. --BEGIN TEXT OF LETTER--

GEN-COL STANISLAV VENIAMINOVICH PETROV
COMMANDER, RADIATION, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE FORCES
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, RUSSIA

DEAR GENERAL PETROV,

IN MY LAST TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH GEN-LT KHOLSTOV ON OCTOBER 7,
1996 WE DISCUSSED THE UNFORTUNATE DELAY IN THE SCHEDULED START OF
CONSTRUCTION FOR THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION FACILITY (CWDF) AT
SHCHUCH'YE, KURGAN OBLAST. AT THAT TIME, IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT
COMPLETION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS NEEDED

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FOR RECEIPT OF THE FINAL LAND ALLOCATION DOCUMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION AT SHCHUCH'YE AND THE ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTION PERMIT WOULD NOT OCCUR UNTIL THE END OF DECEMBER 1999. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT CONSTRUCTION OF THE CWDF AT SHCHUCH'YE COULD NOT COMMENCE UNTIL BOTH OF THESE DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN OBTAINED.

MG (RET) LAJOIE HAS BRIEFED ME ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH GEN-LT KHOLSTOV ON THIS SUBJECT AT THEIR RECENT MEETING IN MOSCOW. I WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAD DETERMINED A WAY TO COMPRESS THIS LENGTHY SCHEDULE BY A FULL YEAR, SO THAT CONSTRUCTION CAN NOW BEGIN IN DECEMBER 1998. OUR NEXT STEP WILL BE TO JOINTLY DETERMINE THE IMPORTANT MILESTONES IN YOUR SCHEDULE THAT MUST BE MET TO ENSURE ADHERENCE TO YOUR NEW TIMELINE. IN ORDER TO DEVELOP THESE MILESTONES, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE DOD UNDERSTAND THE RATIONALE AND JUSTIFICATION USED BY YOUR SPECIALISTS TO BUILD THIS ACCELERATED CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AT THE FOLLOW-ON MEETING, ON OCTOBER 22, 1996, AGREED TO PROVIDE A DETAILED BREAKOUT OF THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE TO THE CWDSO BY NOVEMBER 15, 1996. HOWEVER, I HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED BY THE CWDSO THAT THIS DETAILED SCHEDULE HAS NOT YET BEEN PROVIDED. I TRUST THIS IS ONLY A MOMENTARY DELAY AND THE NECESSARY DETAILED BREAKOUT WILL BE PROVIDED SHORTLY.

AS YOU KNOW, CONGRESS HAS AUTHORIZED AND APPROPRIATED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF FUNDS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 1997 BUDGET TO CONTINUE DOD ASSISTANCE TO THE RUSSIAN CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION PROGRAM. THE CW DESTRUCTION SUPPORT PROGRAM SCHEDULE AND BUDGET CONTINUES TO BE HEAVILY MONITORED BY CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS. OUR ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE CONCRETE PROGRESS TOWARDS THE CREATION OF A CWDF AT SHCHUCH'YE WILL BE A CRITICAL FACTOR FOR ENSURING THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THIS IMPORTANT MISSION.

SINCERELY,
HAROLD P. SMITH, JR.

CC:
AMERICAN EMBASSY MOSCOW, ATTN: BG REPERT(DAO), NOVINSKII BUL VAR 19/23, BOLSHOI DEVYATINSKII PEREULOK 8, 121099, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

MR. PAVEL PAVLOVICH SYUTKIN, CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTIONAL PROBLEMS OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, STARAYA PLOSHCHAD NO. 8/5, 103132, MOSCOW, RUSSIA
MR. NIKOLAI PYATKOV, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SENNAYA PLOSHCHAD 32/34, 121200, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

--END TEXT OF LETTER--

5. POC FOR THIS MESSAGE IS MR. (b)(6) OATSD(NCBI/CTR. (703)
602-5694, FACSIMILE: (703) 602-5744, E-MAIL: (b)(6)

6. CLEARED BY STATE DEPARTMENT. RELEASED UNDER SECDEF AUTHORITY.
LAJOIE

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