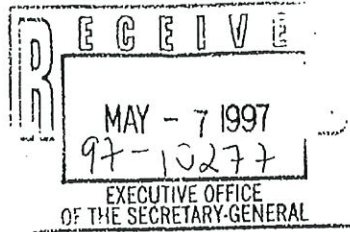


UN0057



Russia  
Chemical Weapons

Unofficial translation

Dear Mr. Secretary – General,

Thank you for your letter of 4 April 1997, in which you draw attention to the need for Russia to ratify the Convention on prohibition of chemical weapons as soon as possible.

I fully share your qualification of this Convention as an unprecedented international treaty that makes possible the elimination of a whole category of weapons of mass destruction under effective control. I would like once again to reaffirm the adherence of Russia to this goal.

I am also in agreement with you on the necessity of Russia's participation in the Convention as a prerequisite of its effectiveness and universality.

The Convention has been submitted for ratification to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. The active parliamentary process of consideration of the Convention has already begun. The State Duma has expressed its intention to finish the ratification process if possible by this autumn. In this regard it emphasized the importance of taking into account the issues vital to Russia in the decisions of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention. It is clear, that the Convention and its consequences for our country should be carefully and comprehensively considered by the State Duma.

His Excellency  
Mr. Kofi Annan  
Secretary – General of the  
United Nations  
New York

I agree with you, Mr. Secretary—General, that one of the fundamental problems for Russia with regard to the Convention is the need for significant expenditures for the destruction of chemical weapons. I appreciate your readiness to undertake efforts to contribute to its resolution. Effective international assistance could accelerate the process of destruction of chemical weapons in Russia. I am hopeful that objective difficulties, as regards our need for additional time for the ratification of the Convention, will be only of a temporary nature.

I would like to stress that since signing the Convention Russia has been fulfilling and will fulfil its obligations not to develop and produce chemical weapons; not to transfer them directly or indirectly to anyone; not to use chemical weapons; not to engage in any military preparations for its use; not to assist, encourage or induce anyone to engage in any activity prohibited under this Convention; not to use riot control agents as means of warfare. Measures have been taken to ensure that toxic chemicals and their precursors are developed, produced and acquired, stockpiled, transferred or used only for the purposes not prohibited under the Convention. The Federal Target Programme on the destruction of chemical weapons adopted in 1996 is being implemented at a pace permitted by the economic situation in Russia.

Unfortunately, the Preparatory Commission for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has not yet resolved many important issues which to a large extent will determine the effectiveness and the universality of the Convention as a whole and which at the same time affect the interests of Russia. Under these circumstances the goodwill of all countries is essential in order to find mutually acceptable solutions to the outstanding issues.

Once again I would like to reiterate that the speedy accession of Russia to the Convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons is our priority goal.

Respectfully Yours,

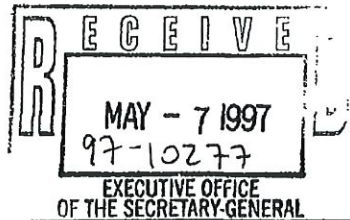
B.Yeltsin

Постоянный Представитель  
Российской Федерации  
при  
Организации Объединенных  
Наций



*Rec'd from Amb. Savvin*  
*Central*  
*cc Mr. Pendergast*  
Permanent Representative  
of the Russian Federation  
to the United Nations

136 East 67 Street  
New York N.Y. 10021



*Mr. Pendergast (SR)*

*cc Central*

Нью-Йорк, "07" мая 1997 года

Уважаемый господин Генеральный Секретарь,

Настоящим имею честь препроводить текст послания Президента Российской Федерации Б.Н.Ельцина и его неофициальный перевод на английском языке в ответ на Ваше послание от 4 апреля 1997 года.



*[Signature]*  
СЛАВРОВ

Его Превосходительству  
Г-ну Кофи АННАНУ  
Генеральному Секретарю  
Организации Объединенных Наций

г.Нью-Йорк