

To comrade V.F. Lazarev

According to your request, I am sending a copy of the document No. 2/upovr of January 05, 1990, with attached draft of directives to the Soviet-American consultations on banning of bacteriological weapons.

The document was circulated among members of the Interdepartmental Commission, specifically to comrades: G.V. Sergeyev, M.I. Narkevich (both from Ministry of Health), A. Y. Gusakov (scientific-research institute Medstatistika), K. A. Alibekov (USSR Ministry of Medical Industry), N. N. Kovalyov (State Military-Industrial Committee of USSR Council of Ministers), S. A. Kondrashev (USSR KGB), F. P. Kurchenko (State Committee for provisions and procurement of USSR Council of Ministers), O. V. Ukharov (General Staff), V. I. Yevstigneev (military unit 26150), S. V. Golubkov (USSR Ministry of Chemistry and Petroleum Industry), A. A. Bayev (USSR Academy of Sciences), P. V. Krymov (State Committee on Science and Technology of USSR Council of Ministers), A.D. Kuntsevich (USSR Defense Ministry), A. V. Fokin (USSR Academy of Sciences), R.V. Petrov (USSR Academy of Sciences).

Provisions specified on page 7 of the draft directives on "Sverdlovsk case" were included in relation to the Reference memo No. 25172 of Dec. 19/20, 1989, of the Central Committee's Defense Department, which contained the following provision: "In connection with the request of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, having additionally examined this question, the USSR Council of Ministers' State Commission on military-industrial issues (comrade I. S. Belousov), USSR Defense Ministry (comrade M. A. Moiseyev), USSR Ministry of Health (comrade Y. I. Chazov) and the CPSU CC Defense Department (comrade O. S. Belyakov) considered it possible to confirm the earlier conclusions of the committee on the natural origin of the epidemic, although it does not appear completely possible to rule out a connection between the outbreak and the accident at the above-mentioned facility."

Draft directives were discussed at the meeting of the Interdepartmental Commission on Jan. 10, 1990, where the authors of the reference memo explained that in reality there had been no accident, and that it was just unfortunate ambiguous wording which crept into the reference memo. In this connection paragraph three on page 7 of the draft directives was removed, and the end of the previous paragraph was presented as follows: "to confine ourselves to a statement that the materials clarifying the causes of the anthrax outbreak in Sverdlovsk had been brought to the notice of the USA." Also, taking into account the general situation in the region, it was also decided to remove paragraph four of that page.

[*signed*]

V. Karpov

11 Jan 1990
No. 03/upovr