The information I will be providing you has been accumulated over many years. It includes recent and mutually confirming information from former Soviet citizens--including scientists and other personnel directly involved in the programs they have described. These personnel include three individuals who left Russia in the last three years after having direct access to the described activities since the 1970's. These people have reported as follows:

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-- That in the early 1970s, the Soviet Union undertook to develop new Biological Warfare agents using genetic engineering techniques to enhance their weapons characteristics.

-- That at about the same time a program was initiated to transfer Biological Weapons research to the civilian sector, and to create new institutes to carry out much of this work.

-- That these facilities were grouped under a special directorate called BIOPREPARAT, which has come successively under the aegis of GLAVMIKROBIOPROM, MINMEDBIOPROM, and MINMEDPROM. BIOPREPARAT was gradually expanded by bringing on board legitimate civilian facilities, and ultimately it was given independent status as a "consortium." Earlier this year, it became subordinate to the Ministry of Health.

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The information we have received indicates that these repeated reorganizations were intended--at least in part--to conceal the actual Biological Weapons mission.

One individual, who had a high level position with good access until his departure from the Soviet Union in 1989, reports that BIOPREPARAT was created to manage military-funded offensive Biological Weapons work using the civilian environment as a shield. Its head has always had access to high levels of government. The statements by this individual are consistent with information obtained through the 1980s from a number of former Soviet citizens.

According to at least one knowledgeable person, steps were taken to create false records--including financial records. The purpose of these records was described as to convince foreigners that no offensive Biological Weapons program existed, by hiding the extent of military involvement and the true nature of the programs.

The program run by BIOPREPARAT (begun in the early 1970s) to develop new and improved Biological Weapons agents has encompassed a large number of civilian institutes. These include the following:

-- The Institute of Applied Microbiology at Obolensk:

Ground was broken for construction in 1975; by the early 1980s these facilities were sufficiently complete to support laboratory research. This is a key facility responsible for research, development and production of dangerous bacteria for Biological Weapons purposes. The information we have received shows that research has been conducted here on the offensive use of agents which cause anthrax, tularemia, and plague, and has included efforts to convert harmless bacteria into Biological Weapons agents. The facility has used special chambers to examine the characteristics of explosively disseminated bacteria, including--according to our information--some which have been modified to increase their effectiveness as Biological Weapons agents.

-- The Institute of Molecular Biology at Koltsovo:

Construction began in 1970s. This is a major facility which our information indicates has developed viruses for offensive Biological Weapons purposes. Projects of concern include past undeclared smallpox work, classified genetic engineering research, explosive aerosol testing of live agents, and mathematical modeling of Biological Weapons agent dissemination.

-- The Institute of Pure Biological Preparations in St. Petersburg:

Established about 1975, this is a restricted access facility that has been responsible for developing techniques and equipment to improve Biological Weapons agent production and dispersion, and to allow Biological Weapons agents to remain viable and toxic when disseminated. Information and products from St. Petersburg are provided to other Biological Weapons facilities, which then apply the new methods to work with actual Biological Weapons agents. (I should note that this description of our information regarding the activities at this Institute was conveyed to officials in the former USSR before we received further confirmation--which I will describe for you in a moment.)

There is also a network of dual-use, industrial-scale biological production plants specially designed and equipped to produce and store Biological Weapons agents. According to at least two knowledgeable individuals, examples of such facilities include, among others, plants located in Berdsk, Omutninsk, and Stepnogorsk. (In April 1990 we specifically asked about these facilities and named other similar ones, but they are not named or explained in the drafts we saw of the Declaration for the UN.)

The former USSR's anti-plague infrastructure, with its network of at least eight research stations, conducts work for the civilian sector but we have extensive information showing it

also has been used to conceal research and development of agents for biological warfare. This includes information, for example, on work done at MIKROB (the All-Union Scientific AntiPlague Institute in Saratov) to increase the Biological Weapons potential of plague bacteria through genetic engineering and other techniques.

One individual, with access to the activity we described, has reported that civilian ministries also conduct research under contract to the military for offensive Biological Weapons projects--for example, Biological Weapons research directed towards human subjects carried out in the Second (2nd) and Third (3rd) Chief Directorates of the former Ministry of Health, and offensive Biological Weapons projects targeted against crops undertaken in the Academy of Agricultural Sciences, through the Ministry of Agriculture.

On the military side, there is Yekaterinburg. As you are well aware, we have for many years had information that the 1979 anthrax epidemic there was caused by an accident at a secret military biological facility and not by contaminated meat as the former Soviet authorities have claimed. This has now been confirmed, according to Journalists in Russia, and the stories were also confirmed publicly by a retired Soviet general who had first-hand information about the accident and subsequent cover-up. The restricted facility at military camp No. 19, in particular, was engaged in research and development of biological

weapons. Recent press statements indicating a change in mission of the facility have not answered our questions about the possible remnants of offensive activities which occurred there in the past.

Another restricted Ministry of Defense facility, near Sergiyev Posad (Zagorsk), was used not only to manufacture Biological Weapons agent antidotes, but also to produce biological agents themselves and to develop weapons for their deployment. This facility includes both a research base and a plant for production and filling of biological munitions.

As regards specific agents, our information shows that the former USSR's biological weapons program--using military and civilian facilities--has explored the development of almost all types of Biological Weapons agents, including infectious organisms, toxins, venoms and bioregulators. The list includes, among others, those agents causing plague, anthrax, cholera, smallpox, and various hemorrhagic fevers and rickettsial diseases.

Information from a variety of individuals with good access indicates that a number of these agents have been weaponized and stockpiled.

For example, according to a number of individuals reporting through the 1970s and 1980s, Botulinum toxin has been researched and produced in both liquid and dry crystalline form as a Biological Weapons agent.

Individuals with good access have reported that large batches of plague have been produced for offensive Biological Weapons use. In addition, Soviet scientists researched techniques to introduce plague genes into harmless bacteria, to make plague bacteria resistant to antibiotics, and to make the agent more suitable for weaponization.

Other projects, according to at least two scientists, involve improving technology used to mass produce plague and improve its shelf life once it has been filled into munitions. Again, I should note that this information was on hand before we received the latest information--which I will describe at the end.

Several sources have reported that both Ministry of Defense and former Ministry of Health Institutes (under military direction) have carried out extensive research to develop new strains of antibiotic resistant tularemia bacteria for use as offensive Biological Weapons agents. The work has included the development of expertise in large scale production and aerosol dispersion of these bacteria.

It is clear from our evidence that much of the genetic engineering work has focused on creating new Biological Weapons agents with increased toxicity and lethality which also may defeat defensive countermeasures. As a result, the former USSR devoted considerable resources to developing and producing unique vaccines to protect its military against the new agents it was creating.

The test range on Vozrozhdeniya Island stands out for its use in atmospheric testing of explosively disseminated Biological Weapons agents. Offensive testing occurred there as recently as 1989 and one individual revealed that testing was at least scheduled for 1990. Biological Weapons agents such as those causing anthrax, cholera and plague have been disseminated on Vozrozhdeniya Island, sometimes in the presence of live animals.

I would now like to turn to information regarding activities that have continued over the past year--activities described as part of an ongoing effort to sustain covertly the former Soviet offensive biological weapons program.

We have reports that the All Union Institute of Ultra-Pure Biological Preparations in St. Petersburg is constructing, equipping, and staffing a facility at Lakhta designed to do

scale-up work to allow industrial production of a strain of plague--a strain developed to be resistant to cold and heat and to 16 antibiotics--for offensive purposes.

The institute at St. Petersburg, as I described earlier, had been identified to us by many sources, over many years, as one of the facilities involved in the biological weapons program of the former Soviet Union.

-- This institute is one of four facilities visited by a team of U.S. and UK experts in January 1991. Our information indicates that the activities there included development of strains of plague resistant to antibiotics.

Since that visit, we have acquired information on the measures taken by then-Soviet authorities to conceal from the U.S.-UK team the real nature of the activities being carried out there. These measures included:

-- hiding activities and destroying information that would be incriminating;

-- cleaning laboratories to remove traces of plague bacteria;

-- sending away from the facility personnel who might reveal the true nature of the program; and

-- installing microphones to monitor all conversations during the visit.

After the visit by the U.S.-UK team, the institute continued to work on development of antibiotic resistant strains of plague.

-- By the Spring of this year, according to the information we have been provided, research and development was completed and the question of the suitability for large scale production resolved.

Meanwhile, according to our information, have been underway for the Lakhta facility to carry out scale-up work for industrial production, including the development of cover stories and legitimate production to hide the secret activities--for example, production of Interleukin II.