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WORKING PAPER

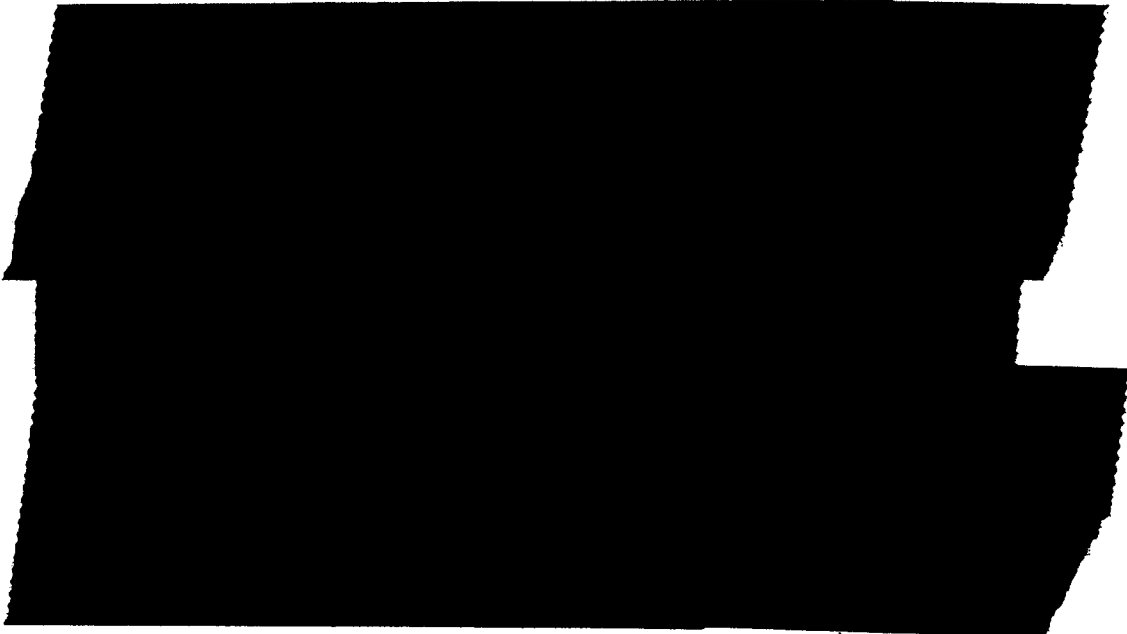
THE THREAT (U)

1. The major chemical warfare threat to the United States is posed by the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies. An increasing number of countries however possess or are acquiring a chemical warfare capability and the prospect that chemical weapons may be encountered in regions critical to US interests other than Europe is growing. (S)

The Warsaw Pact Threat

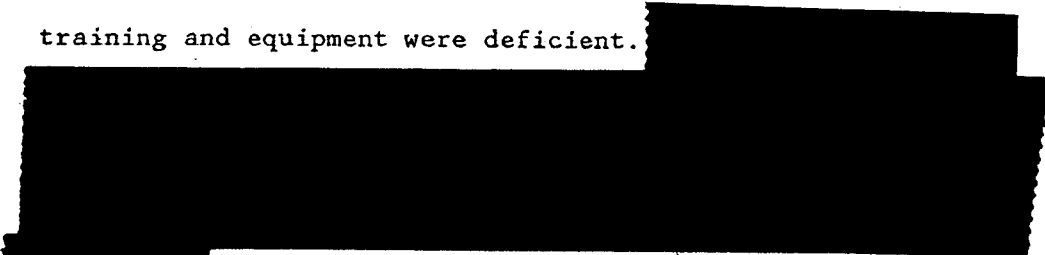
2. The USSR operates on the premise that lethal chemical weapons are likely to be used in a war between NATO and the Warsaw Pact; accordingly, the Soviets and the non-Soviet Warsaw Pact countries possess the resources far in excess of NATO, to wage chemical warfare. There is at least a substantial risk of the Soviets making first use of chemical weapons in a nonnuclear conflict. The Soviets also would be likely to use chemical weapons - in conjunction with conventional and nuclear weapons - once the nuclear threshold had been crossed. (s)

DECLASSIFIED IN PART  
NLS F96-124/3#5380  
By ADJ, NARA, Date 11/21/07



~~(S)~~

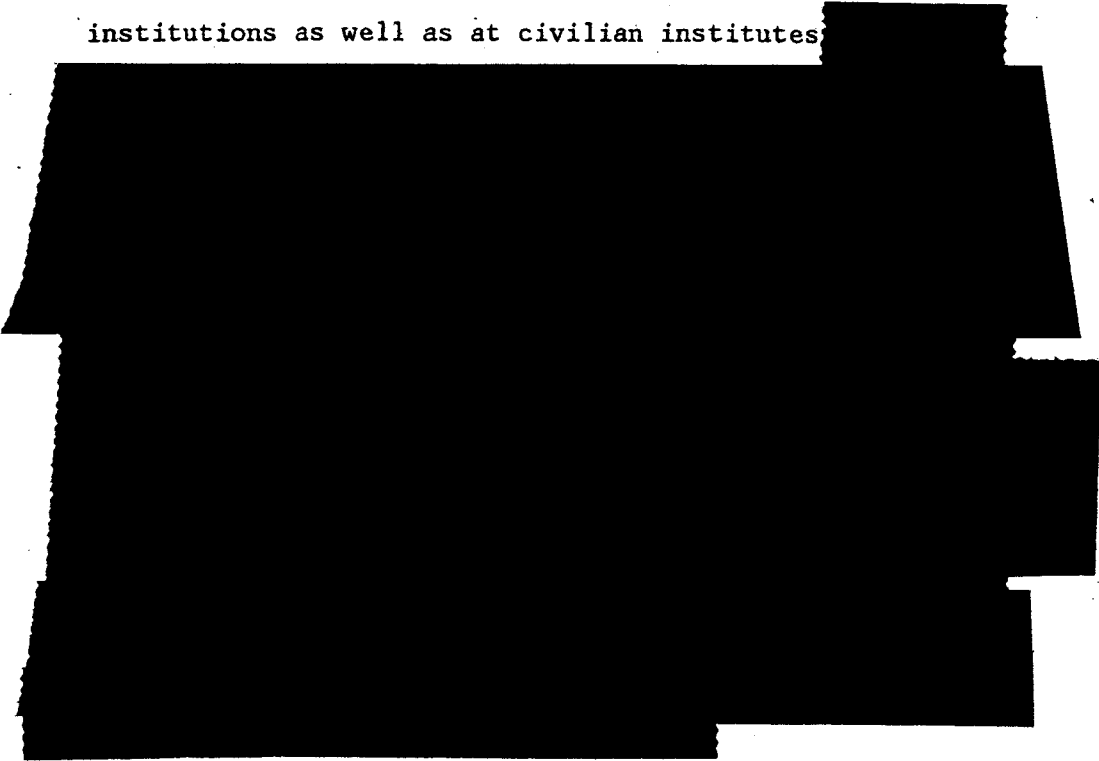
4. General Soviet doctrine for the employment of chemical weapons indicates that the Pact would attempt to achieve surprise and to wage chemical warfare on a massive scale. The element of surprise would offer distinct advantages, especially to the first user, against unprotected personnel or even protected forces whose training and equipment were deficient.



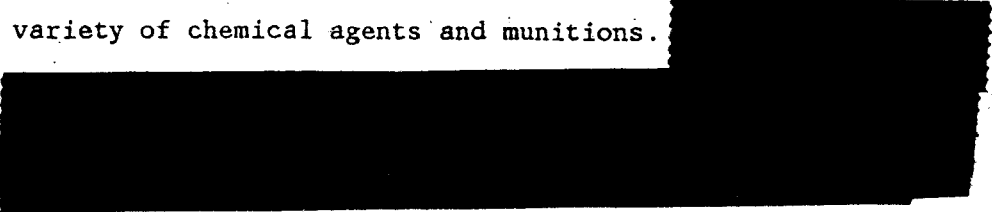
Prime targets would be airfields, nuclear and logistic depots, command and control facilities, and large NATO troop concentrations. Other important targets might

include NATO air defenses, amphibious forces, and port facilities. ~~(S)~~

5. A broad based research and development program has existed in the USSR since World War II, and the Soviets remain in the forefront of CW technical knowledge. Basic research in chemical warfare agents and protection is conducted at closed, classified military research institutions as well as at civilian institutes

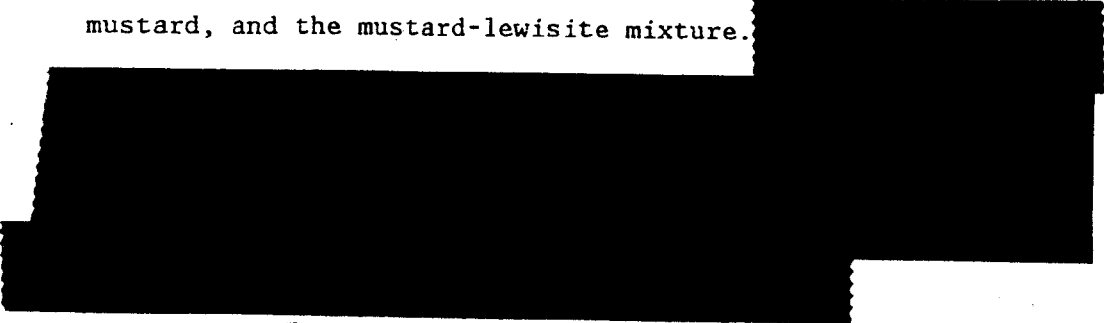



6. The Soviet Union has the capability to produce a variety of chemical agents and munitions.

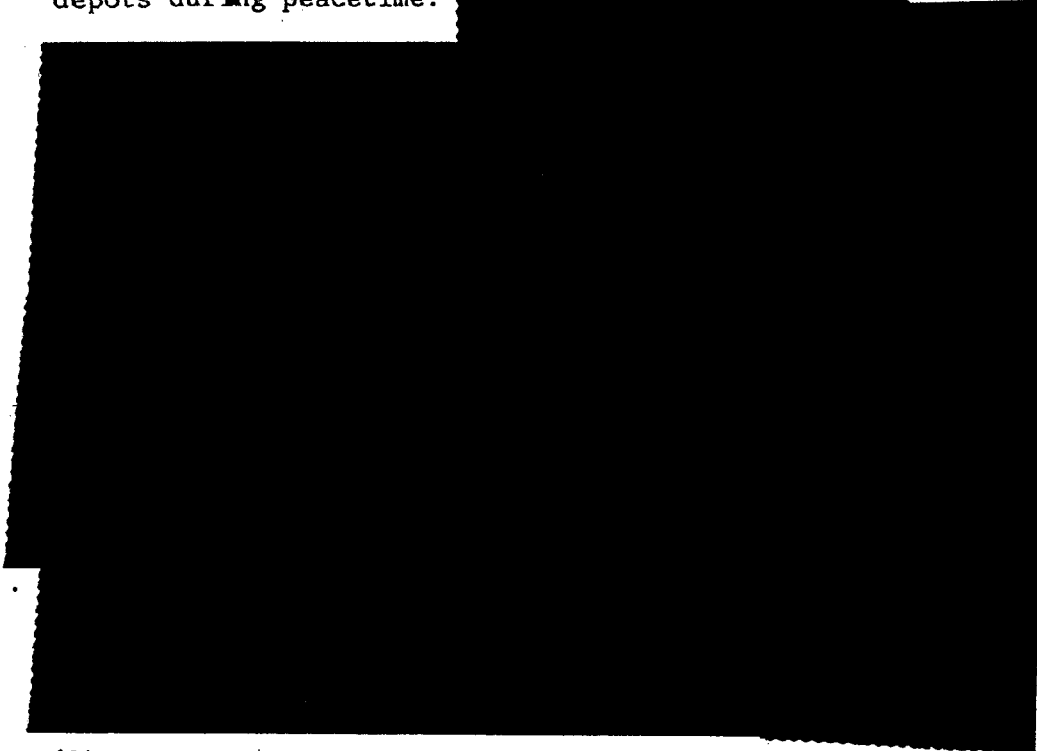





7. We believe the Soviet Union maintains a chemical weapons stockpile that includes operational stocks of nerve agents such as GB (sarin), GD (soman), and a Vx series, as well as older types of agents such as hydrogen cyanide, mustard, and the mustard-lewisite mixture.




8. Chemical agents and munitions are believed to be stored throughout the Soviet Union in a network of storage depots during peacetime. 



~~(S)~~

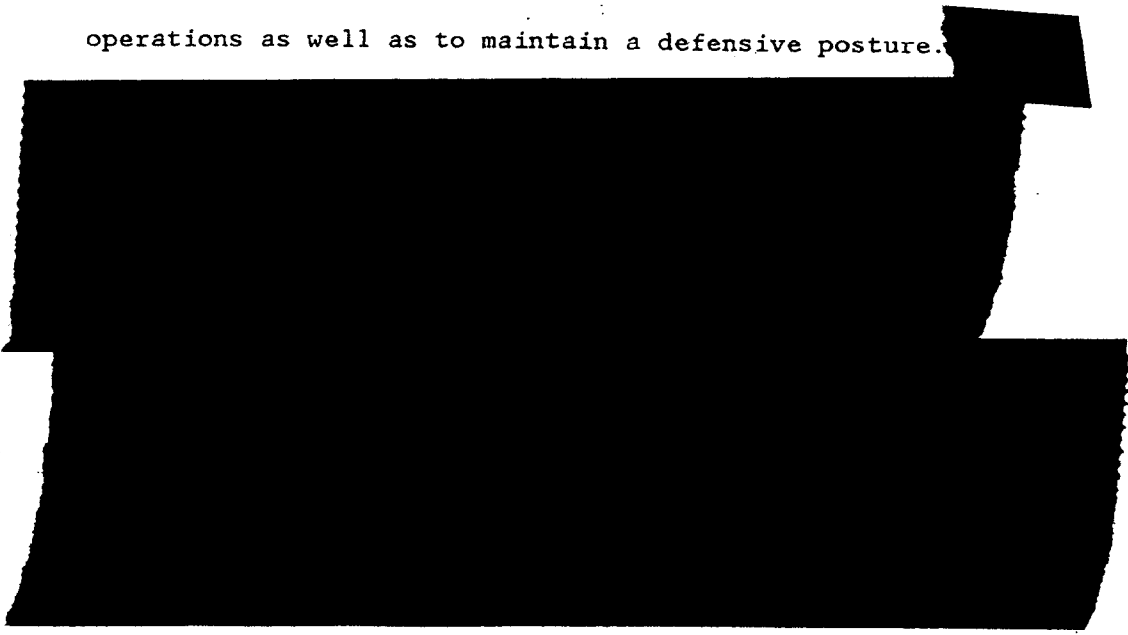
9. Existing Soviet weapon systems capable of delivering CW agents would enable the USSR or its Pact allies to attack targets in almost any tactical situation or weather. 





Warsaw Pact Programs for NBC Protection and Training

10. Soviet and non-Soviet Warsaw Pact forces have been provided with extensive chemical protective materiel. Much of this equipment is required for offensive chemical operations as well as to maintain a defensive posture.



[REDACTED]

The Soviets have a large inventory of NBC reconnaissance vehicles and several types of NBC decontamination trucks that can be used for decontamination of personnel and installations, terrain, and equipment, including clothing and weapons. [REDACTED]

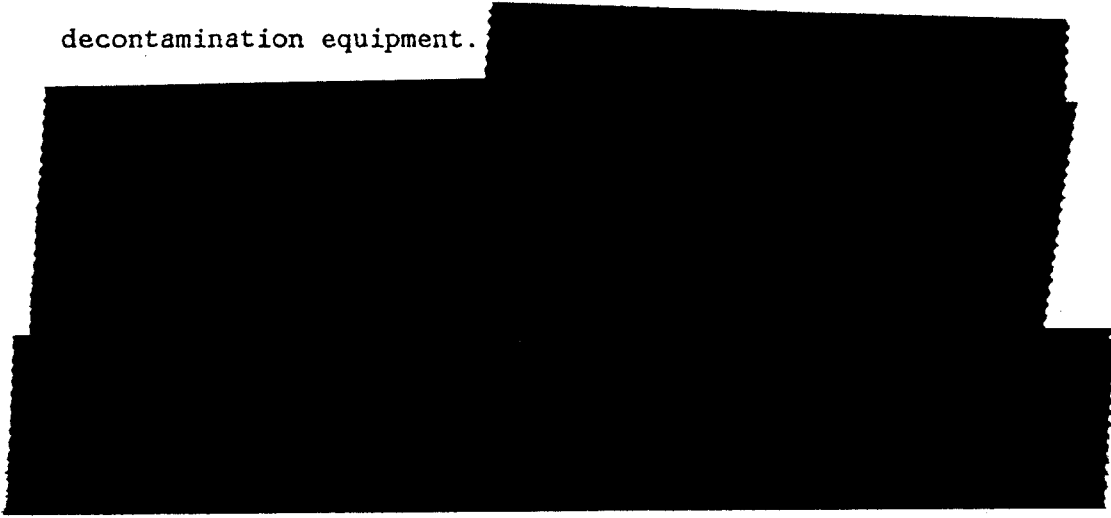
[REDACTED]

11. The Soviets and their Pact allies maintain NBC defense units in all military services. In the ground forces, separate chemical defense units are organic to troop formations from front down through regimental level. Most air regiments and airfields also have NBC defense units.

[REDACTED]

(S)

12. NBC training for Warsaw Pact military personnel is pervasive and well integrated at all levels. General training is designed to familiarize all military personnel with the effects of NBC weapons and with the use of individual protective equipment and reconnaissance and decontamination equipment.



The Chemical Threat from Other Countries.

13. The chemical warfare threat is not be confined solely to a NATO/WP confrontation and the prospects that chemical weapons may be encountered in regions other than Europe are growing. A number of countries are developing or have a chemical weapons capability. Many more are acquiring a protective capability.

14. In the Middle East and North Africa, largely unconfirmed reports indicate that several countries have chemical weapon programs.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- There is strong evidence that Iraq maintains a small arsenal of mustard munitions and is attempting to develop nerve agent munitions.


[REDACTED]


[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]


- CW agents allegedly have been used against

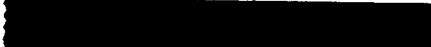
the Eritreans in Ethiopia. ~~(S NF)~~


15. In the Far East, 



- China (PRC) has some offensive CW capability,



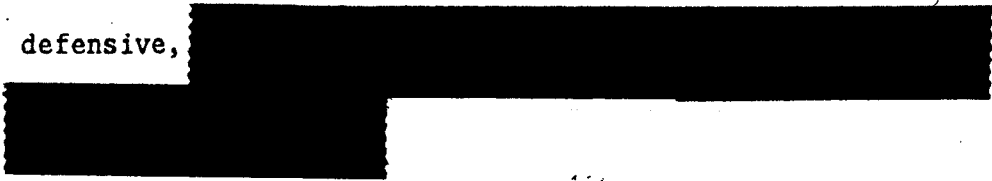
- North Korea reportedly stores and produces  
some CW agents, 



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16. The proliferation of CW capabilities is aided by a developing international market in chemical warfare equipment and technical assistance, both offensive and defensive,



AGENDA  
INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP  
CHEMICAL WEAPONS MODERNIZATION

16 Feb 83, Rm 3E1074

1500-1505	Introduction	Dr. Gold
1505-1510	Legislative Schedule	LTC Dowling
1510-1515	Status DOD Review Panels	Col Connor/Maj Neher
1515-1555	Presentation of Revised Issue Papers	Authors
1555-1600	Concluding Remarks	Dr. Gold