

All the chemical weapons of the former USSR are deployed on the territory of Russia, which is assuming responsibility for their elimination. We are preparing a relevant State programme on this matter.

We are open to cooperation on this issue with the United States and the other parties concerned.

Eighth. Biological weapons. Russia favours the strict implementation of the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention, the creation - on a multilateral basis - of appropriate verification machinery, and the implementation of confidence-building and transparency measures.

Since implementation of the Convention is lagging, I declare that Russia withdraws its reservations concerning the possibility of using biological weapons as a response. These reservations were made by the USSR to the 1925 Geneva Protocol on the prohibition of the use in war of chemical and bacteriological weapons.