

biological weapons in a unilateral move in 1969, and it has been suggested that this was implicitly considered to include toxins made from bacterial agents. At that time, most toxins were obtained by extraction from biological materials. However, laboratory synthesis of toxins in small amounts was emerging as an important scientific technique. Some people then questioned whether chemically synthesized toxins were also included in the USA renunciation. The subsequent review specifically examined the USA policy on toxins, and the scope of the unilateral renunciation was soon extended to include chemical synthesis of toxins for warfare purposes. This was announced by President Nixon on February 14, 1970. Clearly, this had an impact on the USA position in the multilateral consideration of the issue.

The multilateral Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention was concluded in 1972 and entered into force in 1975, and included within its scope toxins and biological agents as the shortened title above indicates. However, toxins were not defined in the text of the Convention. This was clarified to some extent in the final declaration of the Second Review Conference to the Convention which stated that, "toxins (both proteinaceous and non-proteinaceous) of a microbial, animal or vegetable nature and their synthetically produced analogues are covered." (Final Declaration of the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and Their Destruction, Disarmament (Volume 9, Number 3) 1986, page 141).