

Annex 2

Introductory statement by Colonel-General V.K. Pikalov, Commander,
Chemical Warfare Troops, USSR Ministry of Defence

The Shikhany military facility, which you have accepted an invitation to visit, comes directly under the military administration of the Chemical Warfare Troops.

I have the honour to welcome you to the Volga region on behalf of the authorities of the Ministry of Defence and to wish you well.

I think there is no need to comment on the programme for the presentation, since it is well known. I should like to say just one thing: the programme will be carried out to the full, and is unprecedented for us.

Although the year has been marked by abnormal weather, Nature has tried to provide us with some sunshine, and I hope that these conditions will also extend to our meeting.

As the programme for the presentation is rather a full one, I would earnestly request you to defer all the questions that arise in the course of our work until the briefing that will be held on the boat today, or to put them at the press conference that will take place on 5 October, at 10 a.m., in the press centre of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow.