

LETTER DATED 12 JANUARY 1988 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT OF 26 DECEMBER 1987 BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement of 26 December 1987 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

I should be grateful if you would circulate it as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Ambassador Y. Nazarkin  
Representative of the USSR  
to the Conference on Disarmament

In their attempt to justify the production of binary weapons in the eyes of world public opinion, American representatives usually refer to what they allege is the chemical threat from the Soviet Union. To this end, they cite utterly spurious "data" regarding stockpiles of chemical weapons in the USSR. They assert that these stockpiles amount to between 25,000 and 50,000 tonnes of chemical warfare agents and that the capability of the USSR in this field is many times superior to that of the United States. Such a claim must be brought to an end. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR is authorized to state that the Soviet Union's stock of chemical weapons comprises no more than 20,000 tonnes of chemical warfare agents. That, according to estimates by Soviet experts, roughly corresponds to the stockpiles of chemical weapons held by the United States. In addition, all Soviet chemical weapons are kept within the territory of the USSR. Those who speculate about the Soviet chemical threat deliberately ignore the fact that it is precisely the Soviet Union which has been consistently endeavouring at the Geneva talks to achieve the earliest possible complete