

**FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE
STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE
DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

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The reply of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

The Great Jamahiriya expresses its extreme concern and utter astonishment at the statement which the United States Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security made on 19 November 2001 before the Fifth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention, at Geneva, accusing the Great Jamahiriya of having a hostile research and development programme to produce small quantities of bacteriological agents. The Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would like to take this opportunity to affirm that this unjust allegation, which comes at a time when it is earnestly seeking to turn the past page and move forward to a future in which the relations between the two countries can be normalized for the benefit of both the Libyan and the American people, is totally without foundation, and the Great Jamahiriya has never and shall never entertain the idea of having such a programme. The Great Jamahiriya is taking practical steps together with all peace-loving States to combat and eliminate all types of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction, as demonstrated now and in the past by its signing of and accession to all relevant treaties and conventions, particularly the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The Great Jamahiriya has recently reaffirmed its willingness to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention at the earliest opportunity, as soon as the legal and legislative measures required for ratification by the basic People's Congresses have been completed.

The position of the Great Jamahiriya has steadfastly maintained on weapons of mass destruction, particularly biological weapons, and its civilized approach to this issue has been confirmed to the Leader of our Revolution, Colonel Muammar Qaddafi who has drawn attention to the grave dangers which the use and possession of these weapons can pose. In an interview given to the Jamahiriya News Agency following the anthrax outbreak in the United States of America, Colonel Qaddafi said: "This is a cowardly, evil and irresponsible act which poses a threat to all humanity. This is one of the most reprehensible types of physical and psychological terrorism. Biological weapons are the worst and most sinister of the weapons of mass destruction, because they are bound neither by time nor place, and they affect even those who make use of them."

In light of the foregoing, the Great Jamahiriya once more affirms that it will continue to fulfil all of its international commitments and pledges under the conventions and treaties which it has signed, ratified or to which it has acceded. It shall prove to everyone that it is sincere in what it says and that the allegations and accusations which others make against it are without foundation. We shall continue steadfastly to reject terrorism in all its forms and to combat weapons of mass destruction, particularly biological weapons, based on the unshakeable beliefs which have been clearly expressed by Our Leader and confirmed by the Great Jamahiriya in numerous international and regional forums and conferences.

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