



Research Report General Assembly 1

The Question of Managing the
Production of Biological Weapons

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Introduction

Biological Weapons, also known as germ weapons, are dangerous tools that have not been used officially in any warfare yet. However, if one were to produce and use them, they could wipe out all of humanity. It is therefore in everyone's interest that the United Nations starts to set up rules on the production of biological weapons. Biological weapons, not to be confused with chemical weapons where one emits a dangerous chemical substance, are weapons where one releases a lethal disease. This can infect the country that the weapon is used on and can cause the mass genocide of a whole nation. Countries that are involved explicitly are the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, Japan, Iraq and South Africa. This is because they have a history of producing and testing several biological weapons. However, all countries are ultimately involved because their security is dependent on the outcome of the Assembly.

The Committee

GA1 is the United Nation's General Assembly First Committee. The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks solutions to challenges to international security. The issues of GA1 fall under seven categories:

- * Nuclear weapons
- * Other weapons of mass destruction
- * Outer space (disarmament aspects)
- * Conventional weapons
- * Regional disarmament and security
- * Other disarmament measures and international security
- * Disarmament machinery

The work of the body is split into three stages: (1) general debate, (2) thematic discussions and (3) action on drafts. The GA1 is the only Main Committee of the General Assembly entitled to verbatim records coverage. Historical fact: GA1's first resolution was created in 1946 in London.

Keywords

- **Biological Warfare**
The use of biological toxins or infectious agents such as bacteria, viruses, and fungi with the intent to kill or incapacitate humans, animals or plants as an act of war.
- **Host**
An organism that harbours a parasitic, a mutualistic, or a commensalist guest (symbiont), the guest typically being provided with nourishment and shelter.
- **Entomological warfare**
Is a type of biological warfare that uses insects to attack the enemy.
- **Area denial weapons**
A device or a strategy used to prevent an adversary from occupying or traversing an area of land, sea or air.
- **Bioterrorism**
Terrorism involving the intentional release or dissemination of biological agents.
- **Anti-Personnel**
To be used as a weapon against humans.
- **Anti-Agricultural**
To be used as a weapon against crops.
- **Anti-Livestock**
To be used as a weapon against livestock.
- **Geneva Protocol**
Protocol, which bans the use of biological and chemical weapons during war.
- **The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Biological and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (The BWC)**
Treaty, which bans the production, development and development of weapons of mass destruction (including biological weapons)

Overview

Biological weapons are living organisms or replicating entities that reproduce or replicate within their host victims. These weapons are used in biological warfare which is the use of biological toxins or infectious agents such as bacteria, viruses, and fungi with the intent to kill or incapacitate humans, animals or plants as an act of war. The weapons can be used against an individual, a group or an entire population. The weapons can be produced by governments or by non-government groups, in the latter case this can also be considered as biological terrorism.

There is not a lot that we can do against biological weapons. This is because we cannot predict the pathogen that is coming. There has been put a lot of money into research to find a cure that could possibly cure all pathogens. Also, money has been put into research to quickly discover the pathogens.

Many groups, both governmental and non-governmental have sat together to discuss how to counter and prevent biological warfare and the production of biological weapons. Many treaties have been signed where countries promise to withhold from

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the production of the biological weapons. Offensive biological warfare, including mass production, stockpiling, and use of biological weapons, was outlawed by the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention. The rationale behind this treaty, which has been ratified by 170 countries as of April 2013, is to prevent a biological attack which could conceivably result in large numbers of civilian casualties and cause severe disruption to economic and societal infrastructure. Many countries, including signatories of the BWC, currently pursue research into the defence or protection against BW, which is not prohibited by the BWC.

The very first biological weapon was Christopher Columbus and his crew. They set sail for America and when they arrived it was discovered that they they had been carrying several diseases that they had grown immune to. However, the population of native Americans hadn't developed this immunity and they became infected resulting in many deaths.

The major parties involved are all the countries of the world. Everyone wants to invest in a safer world without the fear of mass genocide. Countries that do not wish to cooperate can be seen as a threat as they might want to create biological weapons without any political treaties standing in their way. Several countries have already been associated with biological weapons as they have done research on either offensive or defensive biological weapons. These countries are the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, Japan, Iraq, South Africa

Arguments

On the one hand, Biological weapons are used a lot by many countries. One of the main reasons for this is that they are simply cheaper than regular nuclear or chemical weapons. They are easy to make, use, store and you only need a small quantity to make them extremely efficient. In addition, they are one of the quickest methods to end a war because of their high efficiency.

However, there are certainly many countries which are completely against the use of biological weapons. The main reason for this is that they cause a massive loss of life. Because of their efficiency and their ability to disperse freely in a short period of time, they can kill thousands of people in just a few minutes. Once they have been released, they will linger in the air for a really long time making it really difficult to get rid of any substances. Furthermore they do not only affect humans but also have a tremendous effect on the lives of plants and animals causing a massive loss of life.

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Timeline of Events

Date	Event
1115	In Tortona, Italy water wells are poisoned with human bodies by emperor Barbarossa
1346	Mongols throw bodies of victims of the plague over the city wall of Caffa
1495	Spanish mix blood of leprosy patients with wine to poison the French in Naples, Italy
1650	The Polish use saliva from rabid dogs as a weapon
1675	The German and French agree on not using biological weapons during their fighting
1763	The British give blankets from smallpox patients to native Americans in order to infect them with the disease
1797	In order to enhance the spread of malaria, Napoleon floods the plains around Mantua
June 17 th 1925	Signing of the Geneva Protocol
February 8 th 1928	The Geneva Protocol goes into force
April 10 th 1972	Signing of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Biological and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. = The Biological Weapons Convention

Resolution

Please keep in mind that your resolution should voice your country's opinion. Even though you might not agree, you should set your own opinions aside. Try to really look into your country's policies. Based on that, you should write your resolution. If your country might not be that involved, try looking at your country's allies and follow their policies.

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Links and sources

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