

**The original documents are located in Box 5, folder “1/22/75 - Signing Ceremony: Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Biological Weapons Convention” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *df*.

**SIGNING CEREMONY**

**GENEVA PROTOCOL OF 1925**

**AND**

**THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1975**

I AM SIGNING TODAY THE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION  
OF TWO IMPORTANT TREATIES THAT LIMIT ARMS AND CONTRIBUTE  
TO LESSENING THE HORROR OF WAR.

THE FIRST, THE GENEVA PROTOCOL, PROHIBITS THE  
USE IN WAR OF LETHAL AND INCAPACITATING CHEMICAL AND  
BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS. ITS RATIFICATION COMPLETES  
A PROCESS WHICH BEGAN NEARLY FIFTY YEARS AGO -- IN 1925 --  
WHEN THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED AND SIGNED THE PROTOCOL.

THE UNITED STATES HAS ALWAYS OBSERVED THE PRINCIPLES AND  
OBJECTIVES OF THE PROTOCOL. THE RATIFICATION TODAY  
MARKS OUR FORMAL COMMITMENT. ALTHOUGH IT IS OUR  
POSITION THAT THE PROTOCOL DOES NOT COVER RIOT CONTROL  
AGENTS AND CHEMICAL HERBICIDES, I HAVE DECIDED THAT THE  
UNITED STATES SHALL RENOUNCE THEIR USE IN WAR AS A MATTER  
OF NATIONAL POLICY, EXCEPT IN A CERTAIN VERY LIMITED  
NUMBER OF DEFENSE SITUATIONS WHERE LIVES CAN BE SAVED.  
THIS POLICY IS DETAILED IN THE EXECUTIVE ORDER THAT IS  
BEING ISSUED TODAY.

THE SECOND TREATY I AM SIGNING IS THE BIOLOGICAL  
WEAPONS CONVENTION, WHICH PROHIBITS THE DEVELOPMENT,  
PRODUCTION, AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS.  
IT IS THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT SINCE WORLD WAR TWO  
TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACTUAL ELIMINATION OF AN ENTIRE CLASS  
OF WEAPONS, NAMELY, BIOLOGICAL AGENTS AND TOXINS.

AS EVIDENCE OF OUR DEEP COMMITMENT TO THE OBJECTIVES  
OF THIS BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION, WE HAVE ALREADY  
DESTROYED OUR ENTIRE STOCKPILE OF BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN  
AGENTS AND WEAPONS. OUR BIOLOGICAL WARFARE FACILITIES  
HAVE BEEN CONVERTED TO PEACEFUL USES.

THE FINAL ACT IN THE PROCESS OF RATIFYING THIS  
CONVENTION REQUIRES THE DEPOSIT OF THE INSTRUMENT OF  
RATIFICATION IN WASHINGTON, LONDON AND MOSCOW,  
WHICH WILL BE DONE WHEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND U.S.S.R.  
COMPLETE THEIR RESPECTIVE RATIFICATION PROCEDURES.

FINALLY, I BELIEVE THAT THESE ACTS OF RATIFICATION  
DEMONSTRATE THE DESIRE OF OUR NATION TO CREATE AND CONTRIBUTE  
TO A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD. I PLEDGE TO YOU THAT I WILL  
CONTINUE IN THE SEARCH FOR NEW MEASURES TO PROMOTE THAT  
CAUSE.

END OF TEXT



CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT  
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN  
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS *PAAT*  
SUBJECT: Presidential statement at signing ceremony  
for the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the  
Biological Weapons Convention

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: \_\_\_\_\_  
12:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 22, 1975, the White House

SPEECHWRITER: NSC/State

EDITED BY: Theis/Casserly

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:

NSC/State/Arms Control and Disarmament Agency

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