



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



1st DISC- Biochemical Warfare and Research

Hello delegates, my name is Yilin Huo, but you can call me Bob. I am a junior at Mission Viejo HS and this is my second year doing MUN. Besides MUN, I am also a defense lawyer and witness in our brand new Mock Trial team! I play the clarinet, oboe, and piano in the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Orchestra, and Chamber Orchestra. I am also involved in many clubs, which include but isn't restricted to NHS, CSF, Key Club, Global Medic Project, and Minds of Music. This school year would be my third year of playing volleyball with my fellow Diablos. In my free time, I like to browse videos on YouTube, especially those from SNL and Comedy Central and watch anime. Now that's enough about me, let's move on to our topics! Feel free to contact us with any questions at mvhsmundisc@gmail.com

The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime. It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the [Charter](#) or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments.

I. Background

When we think “chemical warfare,” we think of complex chemical compounds used to blind or choke people, yet even the use of the simplest of poisons is considered biochemical warfare. Chemical warfare is the use of any toxic or poisonous nonliving compounds, whether produced by an organic living organism or not, as a weapon. As of the 20th Century, 70 different chemical compounds have been classified as chemical warfare agents. Chemical agents are often dispersed through bombs or released from aircraft. Some need to be in direct contact with its target to work.

World War I saw a major use of chemical warfare. 124,000 tons of gas were used, including mustard gas and tear gas, such as ethyl bromoacetate and chloroacetone. The use of these chemicals caused 1.3 million casualties, including 260,000 civilians. One of the main problems with using chemical weapons is the high risk of civilian casualties. Civilians rarely have any warning systems for noxious gas blowing through and almost never have sufficient gas masks. However, during WWII, the use of chemical warfare died down as both sides feared retaliation. One exception is Nazi Germany's use of



chemical

agents to gas a huge Jewish population. Still, poisonous gas, such as chlorine and nerve agents, were being researched and manufactured. In modern times, chemical warfare has been used in the North Yemen Civil War, Cambodia/Thailand, Iran-Iraq War, and by terrorist groups, including al-Qaeda and ISIS. Chemical weapons are still in use in Iraq and Syria.

Research of nerve gas and other compounds usually happen through human experiments. For example, unethical human experiments by the British at Porton Down led to several deaths. Examinations of a pesticide led to the creation of a lethal nerve agent, dubbed V-agent. Researchers often used military personal in their experiments. Many of these experiments are done in secret without any records being kept. Although research of toxic substances is banned, there is limited research allowed if the chemical has health benefits.

II. UN Involvement

The Geneva Protocol was an initial step taken by countries to resist the proliferation of chemical weapons. It prohibited its use in war, but did not prohibit countries from manufacturing and stockpiling chemical weapons. Since then, in 1997, the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) gathered to prohibit possession of chemical weapons and urged signing nations to “chemically disarm.” The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was created to enforce and implement provisions of the CWC. As of October 2015, 90% of the world’s stockpiles of chemical weapons was destroyed. The convention also determined three “schedules” of chemical weapons. Schedule 1 includes any chemicals that have little to no uses outside of as chemical weapons. Production of above 100 grams a year must be declared and no country is allowed to have more than 1 ton of the substance. Schedule 2 includes chemicals that have small scale applications. Any export to non-signatories of the CWC is prohibited. Schedule 3 includes chemicals which have large scale uses other than as weapons. No more than 30 tons a year is allowed. As of 2016, 192 states are members of CWC and OPCW. Resolution A/Res/70/41 in 2015 continued to urge nations that have



professed

stockpiles of chemical weapons to continue its destruction and emphasized the implementation of CWC and its policies.

III. Possible Solutions

Delegates, you will have to think of creative and innovative ideas to combat the use of chemical weapons in warfare and research. One simple solution is to continue regulations by the UN on the international community. Research on chemical agents would have to be overseen by the UN and other related organizations. Nations may not conduct their own experimentation, especially human testing, without the consent of the UN. Any state violation provisions put forth by the CWC would be punished severely, whether by fines or another method. Furthermore, since there are still a few countries who aren't signatories to the CWC and/or part of the OPCW, the international community should continue applying pressure to those nations.

IV. Bloc Positions

Middle Eastern- There is no general bloc consensus on biochemical warfare as several states have actually used biochemical weaponry on their own people. As such, the position on biochemical weapons use and research varies on a state-by-state basis

Asian-For the most part, the Asian Bloc is against the proliferation of biochemical warfare, as several states have a negative history with chemical attacks. More advanced states, however, side more favorably when it comes to biochemical research, as these states are in the midst of a global effort to develop understanding and treatments for these attacks

African-These states are, much like the Middle Eastern Bloc, very polarized on the use of biochemical weaponry. On one hand, several states have a dreadful history with biochemical warfare and want to see it abolished entirely. Other states, however, have resorted to using biochemical attacks in the past and are thus far less abhorrent toward the issue.

Latin- Latin states have had relatively little interaction with biochemical warfare. Having seen other states go through the trials accompanied with biochemical weapons use,



however,

Latin states at large are against the proliferation of biochemical research and weaponry. European- European and Western states in general are very much against biochemical warfare, as several of these states have a history with these armaments. Biochemical weapons research is less abhorred, however, as several states have been working to understand these chemical agents in efforts to create safeguards and preventative measures

V. Questions to Consider

- a. Would the black market be affected by this? If so, how?
- b. How would you prevent chemical weapons from going into terrorist hands?
- c. How should experimentation and research be conducted or regulated?
- d. What are some good ways to destroy stockpiles of chemical weapons?
- e. Should private parties or state governments conduct research if the purpose is to find a defense for chemical agents?

VI. Citations

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