Following receipt of your recent letter, I began to look into the means by which it is suggested that disposition be made of existing stocks of chemical warfare material.

President Nixon has directed the Arms Control Agency and the Defense Department to undertake a detailed review of chemical and biological warfare.

The Army has requested the National Academy of Sciences to review a plan for disposal of certain chemical munitions by sinking them beyond the continental shelf in the Atlantic Ocean. The National Academy of Sciences has made several excellent recommendations to accomplish the detoxification of this material and these recommendations are now being implemented.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen