



the sunshine project

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Annual Report 2002

Research and facts about biological weapons and biotechnology.

Many biological weapons are rapidly destroyed by bright sunlight. The Sunshine Project works to bring facts about biological weapons to light. We are an international non-profit organization with offices in Austin, Texas, US, and Hamburg, Germany. We work against the hostile use of biotechnology in the post-Cold War era, researching and publishing to strengthen the global consensus against biological warfare and to ensure that international treaties effectively prevent development and use of biological weapons.

January 2003

2002's Crises of Culture

Last year saw the tragic opening of a Pandora's Box of biochemical weapons. In October, Russian Special Forces released a "nonlethal" biochemical weapon and stormed Moscow's Palace of Culture Theatre. The result was anything but "nonlethal". In a sad tradition dating from the First World War through Vietnam, incapacitating agents were used in brutal combination with deadly force. Inside the Palace of Culture, scores of innocent people received deadly doses of the "nonlethal" aerosol, and dozens of unconscious Chechen separatists were summarily executed. Western leaders refused to condemn the acts. Some even congratulated Russian President Putin, in no small part because several Western governments are interested in fielding their own versions of Russia's gas.

In 2001, the Sunshine Project began investigating "nonlethal" biochemical weapons. In September of that year, we wrote that the War on Terrorism could result in their use. It has. Early in 2002, a severely misguided British official approached the Sunshine Project, seeking to buy biochemical weapons. We put the official's e-mail in an article on the front page of the *Financial Times*. Only weeks before the Moscow tragedy, the Project went to the Chemical Weapons Convention with a 400 page dossier on US biochemical weapons efforts. The Project urged action to stop the program. In response, the US Department of State sought to deny us access to the meeting.

To the chagrin of the Pentagon, we placed results of our Freedom of Information Act requests online, and the documents were widely cited by journalists, on front pages from Malaysia to Norway. But the work was stymied new US restrictions on access to government documents. As the Theatre tragedy news broke, dozens of controversial documents remained suppressed, including US Army weapons research on synthetic opioids, the agents that killed so many in Moscow.

At year's end, the world is poised on a precipice – with several countries ready to descend into full-scale development of new biochemical weapons, deploying them in war, peacekeeping, civil disobedience, and even, as US military scientists endorsed, "on hungry refugees". The question is do our leaders care? The unfortunate truth is that the vast majority of the world's governments are not committed to prohibiting so-called "non-lethal" biochemical weapons and are making no effort to stop them. Another culture crisis - this one in government. The job is up to civil society.

"Non-lethal" biochemicals weren't the only focus in the Sunshine Project's third year. In other 2002 work, the Project revealed that the US Special Forces asked American scientists to propose anti-material biological weapons, and we continued to closely monitor developments on Agent Green. The Project played a key role initiating a new international civil society network to monitor bioweapons. The Project is monitoring the US biodefense program and working with watchdog non-profits to try to reduce the dangers and secrecy in its massive expansion. It working with German policymakers to move that government into a more active policy on strengthening the ban on BW.

The Biological Weapons Convention continues to limp along in crisis mode - meeting to talk about its own agenda instead of substance. Countries agreed to continue talking about voluntary control measures. Diplomats called the meeting a success compared to last year's dismal failures; but the Convention's failure to address biotechnology-related problems, such as anti-material bioweapons, has never been more apparent.

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

"Non-Lethal" Biochemicals

During 2002, the Project conducted more than a dozen US Freedom of Information Act and Federal Advisory Committee Act requests to obtain information on US research on nonlethal biochemical weapons. They unveiled a secretive US effort to develop agents and delivery systems.

Major information releases included *The Advantages and Limitation of Calmatives as a Non-Lethal Technique*, a 2000 report by Pentagon contractors outlining many possible

drug weapons based on pharmaceuticals, street drugs (illegal narcotics), and failed drug candidates. Other documents detailed work on malodorants and strongly suggest work on convulsants – a class of chemicals provoking muscular spasms. Weapons systems detailed by the research include an 81mm biochemical mortar round currently in advanced prototype phase.

Three dozen of the most important documents were placed in an online information clearinghouse. Over the course of the year, press

releases documented the process, culminating in the Project's presentation to more than twenty governments at the Conference of the Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In 2002, substantial resources were dedicated to fighting increased secrecy surrounding this US military research. In several publications, the Project's struggle to obtain "nonlethal" weapons documents was cited as an example of the difficulties that watchdog nonprofits are encountering in accessing government information due to "War on Terrorism" restrictions. Some requests dating to 2001 remain largely unfulfilled.

When the Palace of Culture theatre was stormed, the US National Academies of Science were on the verge of releasing a deeply flawed report encouraging the Pentagon to develop more biochemical weapons. The paper was paid for by the Pentagon and written by a panel overwhelmingly composed of its contractors. Neither NAS nor the Pentagon wanted the panel's sources to become public, thereby revealing the US interest in these weapons. They tried to deflect attention by timing the report's release to coincide with US election day. The stratagem failed. A storm of criticism ensued; but the panel's papers are still secret. At year's end, the status of the NAS report remains uncertain, due to the failure of the panel to comply with open government laws.

US Special Forces/Anti-Material Weapons

Project research uncovered a joint solicitation by the US Special Forces and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) for explicitly offensive, genetically engineered microbe weapons. The solicitation was described in press releases over the course of the year.

The military duo requested the microbe weapons in early 2002, asking US scientists to submit their proposals to create microbes that destroy materials and/or "taggant" bugs that covertly mark targets for destruction later with conventional weapons. DARPA is refusing to release the proposals it received, saying that making them public would compromise Pentagon relationships with biodefense scientists, a dubious assertion because the request was for offensive weaponry. The Sunshine Project has appealed the decision to withhold the proposals, which may reveal violation of the US Biological Weapons Anti-Terrorism Act, the US law that prohibits anti-material biological weapons.

German Biodefense and Policy

The Project frequently briefed German policymakers on BW issues and was instrumental

in a variety of parliamentary activities. We also continued to monitor BW-related activities of the German Army, analyzing the Army's annual report of genetic experiments and closely following the expansion of the German biodefense program.

US Biodefense: Watchdog Collaboration

Following the anthrax letters of 2001, the US announced plans for a dramatic expansion of its biodefense program, beginning with US \$6 billion for new laboratories and experiments. The expansion goes far beyond what is prudent and necessary for biodefense, and the Project is working with other US watchdog NGOs to reduce the dangers posed (see Cooperation).

The Project is tracking work on new US biodefense labs, and maintains a widely circulated list of nearly 20 proposals for new or substantially upgraded Biosafety Level 3 and 4 facilities. The Project's work prioritizes establishment of transparency in the new facilities by opposing classified research. It is raising questions about ill-sited labs, such as those proposed at nuclear weapons complexes, and drawing attention to the proliferation dangers posed by the expansion of work with bioweapons agents and the number of persons trained in the techniques of biological warfare.

Agent Green: Towards a Binding Prohibition

The public controversy surrounding proposed use of Agent Green (biological crop eradication) subsided in 2002, in large measure due to the clear victories achieved in 2000 and 2001. During 2002, the Project continued its monitoring, tracking US Department of Agriculture programs to identify insect enemies of illicit crops in Asia, for experiments in the US and, ultimately, deliberate introduction in other regions. It closely followed developments in Europe and Central Asia, where Afghanistan's resurgent opium poppy crop resulted in movement towards use of Agent Green.

At the end of 2002, US proponents restarted efforts to deploy *Fusarium oxysporum* – a pathogenic fungus – in Colombia. In 2003, Sunshine will continue to monitor developments and work towards a permanent prohibition of this dangerous strategy to escalate the Drug War with biological weapons.

ENMOD

In 1978, the *Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques* (ENMOD) entered into force. This important treaty has nearly been forgotten and is in danger of slipping into political oblivion.

In March, the Project completed *A Political Primer on the ENMOD Convention*, the first in-depth consideration of the treaty published since the aftermath of the first Gulf War. The report brings together rare original documents (online for the first time) with analysis, particularly on the geopolitical aspects of treaty negotiation. To produce the report, the Project conducted archival research in US libraries, the UN Office in Geneva, and Sussex component of the Harvard-Sussex Program on Chemical and Biological Weapons Armament and Arms Limitation.

Cooperation

In 2002, two new cooperation efforts have been central to the Sunshine Project work. Throughout the year, the Project dedicated substantial effort to help form the BioWeapons Prevention Project (BWPP), a new international networking and publishing effort to uphold the norm against biological warfare. The Project served a term as Chair of the BWPP Interim Steering Committee. Other members include the British-American Security Information Council (BASIC); Centre for Conflict Resolution (South Africa); Bradford University Department of Peace Studies (UK); Federation of American Scientists; Harvard Sussex Program; International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (Germany); and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (UK).

The Project also worked to establish collaboration between eight US nonprofits working to reduce the harmful effects of the massive expansion of the US biodefense program. This coalition produced a joint press release in October and continues sharing information and planning future work. Other members are Coalition for a Safe Lab (Hamilton, MT), Los Alamos Study Group (Santa

Fe, NM), Nuclear Watch of New Mexico (Santa Fe), Physicians for Social Responsibility San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Tri-Valley CAREs (Livermore, CA), and the Western States Legal Foundation (Oakland, CA).

Other cooperation activities include participation in the US BW Working Group, a Washington-based arms control initiative which meets to share information and identify collaboration opportunities on biological weapons-related subjects.

Outreach

Web: Use of the Project's websites (sunshine-project.org and sunshine-project.de) continues to dramatically grow. In the last half of fiscal 2002, the sites logged 148,000 user sessions. Visitors downloaded 392,000 pages and 65,000 full-length PDF reports. On average, 775 persons visit daily. When the Sunshine Project is prominent in the news, as many as 6,900 people have visited in a single day.

Newsletters: In 2002 seven editions of *Sunshine Project Aerogramme* (the US-produced English language newsletter) were printed and distributed to a subscriber list now totalling more than 500 recipients.

Eleven editions of *Biowaffen Telegramm*, the Sunshine Project Germany's newsletter, were produced in 2002, along with three editions of a printed newsletter.

Listservers: The Project operates electronic mail listservers in English, Spanish, and German. These provide news and updates on Project activities. Together these listservers now total more than 1600 subscribers in approximately 80 countries.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Founded on December 1st 1999, the Sunshine Project is composed of two legally distinct charities that coordinate research, publishing, and advocacy.

The Board of Directors of the Sunshine Project US held its Annual Meeting by teleconference on July 18th. The third Annual Meeting of members of the Sunshine Project Germany was held on December 13th.

The Sunshine Project Germany is recognized as a tax-exempt association by the German government. The Sunshine Project US has been granted tax-exempt (501(c)3) status by the US Internal Revenue Service.

FY 2002 US and Germany Financials

<i>Balance Sheets</i>	<i>United States</i>	<i>Germany</i>
<u>RECEIVED</u>	30-Nov-02	31-Dec-02
Foundation grants	\$54,300	€ 57,000
Public contributions	\$17,972	€ 3,327
Contracts	\$15,744	€ 3,955
Travel reimbursements	\$2,927	€ 265
Other (interest, etc...)	\$873	€ 22
Total Received	\$91,816	€ 64,569
Cash Balance from FY 2001	\$3,188	(€ 599)
Less Fiscal '01 liabilities	(\$608)	(€ 2,474)
Total Income	\$94,397	€ 61,496
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Salaries (including payroll taxes)	\$55,569	€ 27,180
Health insurance	\$5,326	<i>(included in salary)</i>
Travel	\$6,381	€ 2,479
Rent, utilities, and communications	\$6,255	€ 3,465
Office supplies / materials	\$755	€ 2,086
Seminars and publications	\$1,934	€ 1,100
Contracts		€ 23,163
Miscellaneous	\$1,981	
Equipment	\$2,324	€ 2,580
Total Expenses	\$80,526	€ 62,052
Balance	\$13,871	(€ 556)
<i>Physical Assets (depreciated)</i>	\$2,347	€ 2,914
<i>Committed for FY 2003</i>	\$4,971	€ 7,500

Sunshine Project Publications in 2002

October	14 th : Joint News Release: <i>Time to Reassess Massive US Biodefense Plans</i> 30 th : News Release: <i>US NAS Withholds Key Information on the Moscow Theater Tragedy</i>
September	19 th : Review Paper: <i>MCRU Calmatives Study and JNLWD – A Review of the (Public) Facts.</i> 24 th : News Release: <i>US Operates Secret Chemical Weapons Program</i> (with map and fact sheet) 27 th : News Release: <i>US Chemical Weapons: Human Testing Planned</i>
August	12 th : News Release: <i>US Special Forces Seek Genetically Engineered Bioweapons</i>
July	1 st : News Release: <i>Psychopharmacological Weapons Under Consideration</i>

May	Backgrounder #10: <i>An Introduction to Bioweapons, their Prohibition, and the Relationship to Biosafety</i> 8 th : News Release: <i>US Armed Forces Press for Offensive Bioweapons</i> 24 th : News Release: <i>Pentagon BW Proposals at US Attorney's Office</i>
April	22 nd : <i>Statement to the Biosafety Protocol (ICCP-3)</i>
March	Backgrounder #9: <i>Non-Lethal Weapons in the US: Genetically Engineered Anti-Material Weapons</i>
February 2002	Research Paper: <i>A Political Primer on the ENMOD Convention</i> 19 th : News Release: <i>US Tests Ethnically-Targeted Crowd Control Weapons</i>
December 2001	6 th : News Release: <i>Bioweapons Negotiations Focus on Forum, Not Substance</i> 7 th : News Release: <i>Intent to Kill</i>

Authored Publications

Hammond	<i>Me and Johnny Sutton</i> , <u>The Texas Observer</u> , December.
van Aken	<i>Gentechnik und Biologische Waffen</i> , <u>Zeitschrift fuer Biopolitik</u> 3:11-17, December
The Sunshine Project	<i>An Introduction to Biological Weapons, their Prohibition, and the Relationship to Biosafety</i> , <u>Third World Network</u> , September (also published as Backgrounder #10)
van Aken	<i>Kein Beweis für Biowaffen</i> , <u>Neuen Deutschland</u> , September
Hammond	<i>The Pentagon's Secret Chemical Weapons Program</i> , <u>Counterpunch</u> , September
Hammond	<i>Bombing the Mind: The Pentagon's Secret Drug War</i> , <u>Counterpunch</u> , July
The Sunshine Project	<i>Pentagon-Programm zur psychopharmakologischen Kriegführung</i> , <u>Zeit-Fragen</u> , July
van Aken	<i>Gentechnik bei der Bundeswehr</i> , <u>Dr. med. Mabuse</u> , May/June 2002
Hammond	<i>NAS Suppresses Public Documents on Chem/Bio Weapons</i> , <u>Counterpunch</u> , May
van Aken/Hammond	<i>Closing loopholes in the biological weapons convention</i> , <u>Medicine, Conflict and Survival</u> , April
van Aken	<i>Agent Green – Mit Biowaffen gegen Drogenpflanzen</i> , <u>Lateinamerika-Nachrichten</u> , March
van Aken	<i>Grenzen für die biologische Abwehrforschung</i> , <u>Wissenschaft & Frieden</u> , February
van Aken/Hammond	<i>Some thoughts on biodefense research</i> . <u>INESAP Information Bulletin</u> , February
van Aken	<i>Startschuss für biologisches Wettrüsten?</i> <u>Friedens-Forum</u> , February
van Aken	<i>Biologisches Wettrüsten – Nach den Milzbrandattacken in den USA</i> , <u>Dr. med. Maabuse</u> , Jan/Feb 2002

Presentations and Meetings

Resumed 5th Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, Geneva, November.
 Science and Society Conference, EMBL, Heidelberg, November.
 Pugwash Study Group on the Implementation of the CBW Conventions, Geneva, November.
 Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, The Hague, October.
 Biojustice Conference, Toronto, June.
 Third Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol, The Hague, April.
 Fifth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, The Hague, April.

Media Presence

The following is a selection of 2002 media coverage. Consult the "In the Media" section of the Project's website for a more complete list.

<i>Financial Times</i> , 4 December Military looks again at non-lethal arms	<i>Junge Welt</i> , 11 November 2002 Wer kontrolliert Großmächte?
<i>Inside the Navy</i> , 2 December NAS Study Shows Messy Reality	<i>Los Angeles Times</i> , 10 November 2002 Best Defense May Be a Good, Offensive Stench
<i>The Village Voice</i> , 13 November It's a Gas, Gas, Gas	<i>Science</i> , 8 November 2002 Questions Swirl Over Knockout Gas Used in Hostage Crisis
<i>San Francisco Bay Guardian</i> , 13 November Life During Wartime: More biofun in the free world	<i>San Francisco Chronicle</i> , 5 November 2002 Nonlethal weapons pushed /Activists decry timing
3Sat TV (Germany), 12 November Nano: Report on Iraq, BW Threat, and the BWC	<i>Los Angeles Times</i> , 5 November 2002 'Nonlethal' Weapons Vital, Panel Says
<i>Süddeutsche Zeitung</i> , 11 November Verärgerung über die USA vor den Genfer Biowaffen-Gesprächen	ZDF TV (Germany), 5 November Frontal 21: Feature on Development of "Nonlethal" Chemical Weapons

National Public Radio, 5 November
Morning Edition: Interview on NAS 'nonlethal' chemical weapons report

Christian Science Monitor, 4 November 2002
US moves into emerging bioweapon era

Financial Times, 4 November 2002
Defence chiefs seek to promote non-lethal biological weapons

The Observer (London), 3 November 2002
Army's secret 'people zapper' plans

New York Times, 3 November
Oh, What a Lovely War, if No One Dies

Wall Street Journal, 1 November
U.S. Agency Set to Issue Report on Nonlethal-Weapon Science

San Francisco Chronicle, 31 October
Use of gas risks others following suit

Financial Times, 30 October 2002
UK Home Office sought poison gas

Z Magazine, 30 October 2002
A new kind of chemical war

New York Times, 29 October 2002
US Suspects Opiate Gas Used in Theater

Los Angeles Times, 29 October 2002
Russia's Use Of Gas Focuses Attention On Chemical Agents In U.S.

ZDF TV (Germany), 29 October
Frontal 21: Report on use of Gas in Moscow Theater

Dagsavisen (Norway), 29 October 2002
Kan vaere et våpenprogram

KPFA-FM (Berkeley/San Francisco), 29 October 2002
Flashpoints: Interview on calmativive weapons

CBC Radio National, 28 October 2002
As it Happens: Interview on calmativive weapons

Le Courier (Geneva), 18 October 2002
Des ONG tentent de freiner la relance de la course

Baltimore Sun, 16 October 2002
Research institutes unveil plans for Fort Detrick lab expansion

NTV (Russia), 9 October 2002
Report on US Chemical Weapons

Chemical and Engineering News, 7 October 2002
US Chemical R&D Questioned

Wired, 30 September 2002
Non-Lethal Weapons Shoot to Hurt

Radio 702 News (South Africa), 27 September 2002
News Interview on US chemical weapons

Dagsavisen (Norway), 27 September 2002
USA produserer kjemiske våpen

Daily Times (Pakistan), 27 September 2002
US is developing chemical weapons

New Straits Times (Malaysia), 27 September 2002
US making 'chemical arms'

Australian Broadcasting Corp., 27 September 2002
Radio National Breakfast: News Interview on US Chemical Weapons

Radio France International, 26 September 2002
News Interview on US Chemical Weapons

Spiegel, 26 September 2002
US-Armee will angeblich Drogen einsetzen

Die Tageszeitung, 26 September 2002
Nicht tödlich, aber illegal

Associated Press (Germany), 26 September 2002
USA entwickeln offenbar neue Chemiewaffen

SIC Television (Portugal), 26 September 2002
EUA acusados de desenvolver armamento químico

Associated Press, 25 September 2002
Pentagon explores use of chemicals

Volkskrant/ANP (Netherlands), 25 September 2002
'VS ontwikkelen nieuwe chemische wapens'

Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 September 2002
'Nicht-tödliche' Chemiewaffen sollen dem Feind gute Laune machen

Der Standard (Austria), 25 September 2002
USA entwickeln angeblich neue Giftgase

Globus TV (Germany), 18 September
Interview on BTWC, Iraq, and US Biodefense Program

San Francisco Bay Guardian, 18 September
How Dubya's making the world safe for biowarfare

In These Times, 2 September 2002
Appal-o-meter: Better Fighting Thru Chemistry

Science, August 2002
U.S. Research on Sedatives In Combat Sets Off Alarms

Time Magazine, 29 July 2002
Beyond the Rubber Bullet

Pacifica Radio Network, 19 July 2002
Democracy Now: Interview on Biochemical "Non-Lethal" Weapons

Wall Street Journal, 12 July 2002
Scientist Shows How Terrorists Could Create Virus

WNUR-FM (Chicago/Evanston), 6 July 2002
Interview on Pentagon Psychopharmacological Research

Asia Times (Hong Kong), 26 June 2002
Kill or cure: Bio-weapons in the war on drugs

The Texas Observer, 7 June 2002
Political Intelligence: Evil-Doings in San Antone

Chemical and Engineering News, 3 June 2002
Is NAS Being Hoodwinked?

Nature Biotechnology, June 2002
Allegations freely traded on biotechnology for biowarfare uses

Membrana (Russia), 30 May 2002
Microorganisms drafted for the army

Clarín (Buenos Aires), 29 May 2002
EEUU planea el uso militar de Valium y microbios transgénicos

South-North Development Monitor (Geneva), 28 May 2002
Biological weapons documents handed over to Justice Dept

Chemical and Engineering News, 27 May 2002
Pentagon stops public release of study, documents on nonlethal weapons

The Observer (London), 26 May 2002
US plan to strike enemy with Valium

Global Security Newswire, 21 May 2002
United States: Pentagon Denies Biological Weapon Charge

The Guardian, 21 May 2002
Riddle of the Spores

The Moscow Times, 17 May 2002
Global Eye - General Principles

Associated Press, 17 May 2002
Military Weapons Documents in Limbo

Stern, 17 May
USA planen Einsatz von Biowaffen

Jornal do Brasil, 12 May
Armas que não matam

Spiegel, 12 May
Bakterien gegen Panzer

New Scientist, 11 May
US non-lethal weapons reports suppressed

The Village Voice, 10 May
U.S. Military Proposes Illegal Bioweapons Research

Channel 4 News (UK), 9 May
Report on US Military Offensive BW Proposals

KPFF-FM (Los Angeles/Santa Barbara), 8 May
Evening News: Repost on US Offensive BW Proposals

Die Zeit 10/2002, 28 February 2002
Biowaffen - Schwarzer Tod aus dem Labor

The Observer (London), 24 February
Police sniff out mother of all stink bombs

National Radio Project, 6 February
Making Contact: Biowars - Do No Harm

Folha de São Paulo, 23 January
O fungo da discórdia

Le Monde, 19 January
Les OGM, ça sert aussi à faire la guerre

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