

Dr. Jose Mauricio Bustani
Director General
Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
The Hague, Netherlands

November 5, 1997

Dear Dr. Bustani,

Successful Russia's ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention gives us a pleasant and especial opportunity to thank you for your participation in our international conference "Russia Towards Ratification of the CWC" held in Moscow on September 18, 1997. Your excellent and thoughtful address to the conference, which was attended by key Russian parliamentarians, other officials, as well as media and non-governmental experts, significantly contributed for facilitating and promoting the ratification process through the Russia's Federal Assembly. It also helped for consolidating positions of the CWC supporters in the country and educating Russia's decision-makers in importance of the timely adherence to this unique multilateral disarmament regime.

As a follow up of the conference, we prepared a booklet "The CWC in Questions and Answers" which was distributed among the Duma and the Federation Council deputies and staffers prior to the voting. It played an important role in expanding support for the early and successful ratification in both houses of the Russian Parliament.

Let us wish you all the best in your important activity aimed at eliminating one of the most barbaric weapon in the human history. From our side, we will continue our efforts in facilitating the CWC implementation in Russia and elsewhere.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Dr. Georg Dobrovolny
Executive Director
Forum East-West, Switzerland



Dr. Alexander A. Pikayev
Director
Section on Arms Control
and Non-Proliferation,
IMEMO, Russia