

CERTIFICATION CONCERNING THE
PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESOLUTION OF ADVICE
AND CONSENT TO RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE
PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PROHIBITION, STOCK-
PILING AND USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DE-
STRUCTION, ADOPTED BY THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
ON APRIL 24, 1997



APRIL 30, 1998.—Message and accompanying papers referred to the
Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Senate of the United States on April 24, 1997, I hereby certify in connection with Condition (7)(C)(i), Effectiveness of Australia Group, that:

Australia Group members continue to maintain an equally effective or more comprehensive control over the export of toxic chemicals and their precursors, dual-use processing equipment, human, animal and plant pathogens and toxins with potential biological weapons application, and dual-use biological equipment, as that afforded by the Australia Group as of April 25, 1997; and

The Australia Group remains a viable mechanism for limiting the spread of chemical and biological weapons-related materials and technology, and that the effectiveness of the Australia Group has not been undermined by changes in membership, lack of compliance with common export controls and nonproliferation measures, or the weakening of common controls and nonproliferation measures, in force as of April 25, 1997.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 29, 1998.*

STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION

Since entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the 30-member Australia Group (AG) CBW nonproliferation regime has held one plenary meeting. At its October 6-9, 1997 annual meeting, the AG reaffirmed the members' collective belief that full adherence to the CWC and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) will be the only way to achieve a permanent global ban on chemical and biological weapons, and that all states adhering to these Conventions must take steps to ensure that their national activities support these goals.

The AG also affirmed that national export licensing controls on CBW-related items are necessary for AG members to fulfill their obligation under Article I of the CWC and Article VI of the BWC for States Parties never to assist, in any way, the acquisition, retention, transfer, or use of chemical and biological weapons. The United States expects the Australia Group to continue to play a key nonproliferation role now that the CWC has entered into force.

At its October 1997 meeting, the AG also agreed to continue its active outreach program of briefings for non-AG countries, and to promote regional consultations on export controls and nonproliferation to further the awareness and understanding of national policies in these areas.

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