Egypt Chemical Chronology

As of 5 June 2009, this chronology is no longer being updated.
For current developments, please see the Egypt Chemical Overview.

2008-2003

18 April 2008
In the final document of the Second CWC Review Conference the member states of the OPCW call upon Egypt and all other states not yet party to the Convention to to ratify or accede to it as a matter of urgency and without preconditions, in the interests of enhancing their own national security as well as affirming their commitment to global peace and security and to the object and purpose of the Convention.

15 June 2008
Egyptian and Japanese officials meet in Cairo for consultations on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss wide-ranging issues on disarmament and non-proliferation including nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, biological and chemical weapons, and conventional weapons.

October 2008
In an interview with Arms Control Today, Nabil Fahmy, Egypt's Ambassador to the United States is asked what the likelihood is that Egypt will revise its current policy of refusing to accede to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Ambassador Fahmy says: "Very little, if any. Not because we are against the CWC. Quite the contrary, we were the first to make proposals to pursue the prohibition of chemical weapons. If, on the other hand, we saw some movement on the Israeli side regarding the NPT or the zonal agreements, we would review our position quite quickly. We do not have a commitment to chemical weapons. We have a commitment to equal standards for all in the Middle East, and we don't believe that this commitment has been respected by others."
17 to 19 October 2007
In New York the Director-General of the OPCW holds bilateral meetings with representatives of several states that are not currently party to the CWC to encourage these countries to join the Convention as soon as possible. One of the meetings is with H.E. Mr Maged Abdelaziz, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the UN. — “Universality Discussed between OPCW and Seven States not Party,” Chemical Disarmament Quarterly, Vol. 5, No. 4 (December 2007), p. 20.

18-19 June 2007
An Egyptian representative attends the Workshop on the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in Algiers, Algeria. The declared purpose of the workshop is to promote universal adherence to the CWC in Africa and encourage its full and effective implementation on the continent. During the workshop the Egyptian representative meets with the Director-General of the OPCW who encouraged these States to join the Convention as soon as possible. — “Chemical Weapons Convention Workshop in Algeria,” Chemical Disarmament Quarterly, Vol. 5, No. 3 (September 2007), p. 10.

17 April 2007

Spring 2007
Arab Studies Quarterly publishes an article describing Egyptian proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Although the article includes a section on chemical weapons the primary focus is Egyptian interest in nuclear capabilities. The article draws attention to Egypt’s history with chemical weapons but offers no new information about the program. — Gawdat Bagdat, “The Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction: Egypt,” Arab Studies Quarterly, Vol. 29 (2), Spring 2007, p. 1-15.

5 to 8 December 2006
An Egyptian representative attends the 11th Session of the Conference of the States Party (CSP) to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in the Hague as an observer. [Note: As a state that has neither signed nor acceded to the CWC the Egyptian representative can only attend the open sessions of the CSP]. — C-11/DEC.1: Decision: Attendance by Non-Signatory States at the Eleventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 5 December 2006, www.opcw.org.

25 to 27 October 2006
A nongovernmental representative from the Cairo University in Egypt attends the Third OPCW Workshop to Promote the Universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention among States in the Mediterranean Basin, the Middle East, and neighboring regions held in Rome, Italy.

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21 October 2006
The Director General of the OPCW delivers a speech to the United Nations General Assembly in which he criticizes a number of countries for refusing to ratify or accede to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Amongst those singled out for criticism is Egypt. Pfirter observed that Egypt, Israel, Lebanon and Syria "have one way or the other allocated the responsibility for the inability to join" to the ongoing regional conflict. "I disagree entirely with that. I believe today there is no moral or strategic or legal excuse to remain outside the chemical weapons ban," he added.

June 2006
The United Kingdom releases it quarterly report on the application of national strategic export controls in the first three months of 2006. The report notes the UK government’s approval of exports of unspecified "corrosion resistant chemical manufacturing equipment" to Egypt by British companies.

28 February 2006
At the Inter-Arab Parliamentary Union meeting in Amman Jordan Egyptian representatives call for reviving the call of President Husni Mubarak to render the Mideast free from biological, nuclear and chemical weapons of mass destruction.

5 October 2005
A workshop to promote the universality and implementation of the CWC takes place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop is attended by representatives from a number of African countries that are not yet members of the CWC, including Egypt. The workshop’s purpose is to demonstrate the legal, administrative and enforcement mechanisms of the CWC regime, as well as the benefits to be derived from OPCW membership through the programs for protection and assistance.

6-8 September 2005
The third [see 20-22 Sep 04] regional meeting for national authorities of Chemical Weapons Convention states parties in Asia is held in Tehran, Iran. The meeting is organized jointly by the Iranian government and the OPCW. In addition to a large number of participants from regional states parties the meeting is also attended by representatives from two nonparties; Egypt and Myanmar.
Note: The attendance of Egyptian representatives at this and other similar meetings in 2005 is especially

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interesting as a possible indicator of impending changes in Egyptian policy toward the CWC.

13 to 15 June 2005
For the second year in succession a representative of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Relations attends a workshop jointly organized by the Republic of Cyprus and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) aimed at promoting universal adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The Second Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) Regional Workshop on a Universal Chemical Weapons Ban in the Mediterranean Basin and the Middle East takes place in Nicosia, Cyprus. The meeting brings together representatives of twenty-three States Parties, seven States that have not ratified or acceded to the CWC, the European Union, the League of Arab States and Egypt. The aim of the workshop is to promote awareness among participating states of the problems commonly encountered in seeking to achieve full and uniform compliance with the Convention's obligations. In addition, it provides practical measures to help reach this goal.

28 January 2005
The United Kingdom releases its third quarterly report on Strategic Export Controls, covering the period 1 July to 30 September 2004. The report notes the issuing of licenses for the export to Egypt of "NBC respirators, components for NBC respirators, NBC clothing, NBC decontamination equipment, chemical agent detection equipment, [and] civil NBC protection clothing."

7 June 2004
The United Kingdom releases its annual report on the application of strategic export controls in 2003. The report notes the legitimate export of a variety of restricted items to to Egypt; unspecified "toxic chemical precursors," "civil NBC protection clothing, NBC respirators, NBC clothing, NBC filters."

5-7 May 2004
A representative of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Relations attends a workshop in Malta jointly organized by the Maltese government and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) aimed at promoting universal adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Israel has not yet ratified the CWC which it signed in 1993.

May 2004
The Director-General of the OPCW, H.E. Mr. Rogelio Pfirter, has "bilateral contacts with representatives of Egypt based in The Hague." These meetings are conducted as part of efforts to expand the membership of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

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24 December 2003
Following a summit meeting in the town of Sharm El-Sheikh, the presidents of Egypt and Syria issue a joint statement that includes language on the issue of WMD. "The two presidents underlined their call to eliminate weapons of mass destruction from the region and to work jointly to achieve this goal within the framework of the United Nations and other international bodies. Events in the region have shown the importance of making the Middle East, Israel included, a region free from all WMD." The statement makes no mention of alleged WMD in either Egypt or Syria and is generally perceived as directed at Israel.


20 December 2003
Ahmad Abu-Zayd, Chairman of Egypt's People's Assembly Arab Affairs Committee, urges Israel and all Mideast countries to follow Libya's example and dismantle their WMD programs. In a clear reference to Israel, Egypt's Foreign Minister Ahmad Maher underlines the point observing: "[w]e welcome Libya's decision and hope other countries in the region follow suit. You, of course, know who we mean."


12 December 2003
The Jerusalem Post carries a major report on Egypt's military build-up. It notes that Egypt's stocks of chemical and biological weapons and its advanced ballistic missile capability remain a large threat to Israel. The report says that according to Dr. Dany Shoham of the Bar-Ilan University's Begin Sadat Center, the Egyptian chemical arsenal includes VX, sarin, mustard gas, and lewisite. The report adds that Egypt has varied means of dispersal for these weapons, including chemical mines, artillery shells, aerial bombs, and advanced ballistic missile systems.


16 October 2003
Speaking in Putrajaya, Malaysia, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher describes impending U.S. moves to apply sanctions on Syria as inappropriate and unjustifiable. The United States is considering sanctions against Syria "for its alleged ties to terrorist groups and purported efforts to obtain nuclear, biological and chemical weapons."


22 May 2003
Egyptian biologist Dr. Wajdi Abd-al-Fattah Sawahil claims that Israel uses chemical drugs to torture and elicit
information from Palestinian detainees and is using gases on Palestinians that lead to infertility.

15 April 2003
Speaking in Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher responds to a reporter's question about proposed U.S. sanctions on Syria related to that country's alleged pursuit of chemical weapons with the following statement: "Egypt rejects all threats against an Arab state." He also states, "we feel threats are not an appropriate way of dealing with a problem, if there really is one." Responding to speculation that the United States might be considering military action against Syria now that it has concluded the initial conquest of Iraq, Maher says "Arab countries and the international community are unanimous on [the need] to avoid what happened in Iraq being repeated once again."

14 April 2003
Speaking with reporters, Osama al-Baz, a close adviser of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, states that there is "a great difference between Syria and Iraq under Saddam Hussein." He adds that Egypt is sure that Syria does not have chemical weapons.

February-March 2003
Documents obtained in the course of UNMOVIC inspections in Iraq show that Egypt's state-owned Abu Zaabal Special Chemicals Co. delivered 1,300 tons of nerve-gas precursors to Iraq during the 1980s. Abu Zaabal also delivered 200 tons of hydrogen cyanide to Iraq in 1984, according to the Iraqis.

18 February 2003
Former Egyptian leader, Gamal Abdel Nasser, is compared to Saddam Hussein and vilified for hiring Nazi scientists to develop chemical weapons.

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chemical weapons program or that Egypt is pursuing new unconventional weapons. Prior to the November BWC
convention, U.S. Undersecretary of State, John Bolton, commented on several Middle East countries and their
WMD programs, but did not address Egypt's WMD programs. The oversight was most likely intentional in
deerence to Egypt's important role in backing the United States in an anticipated invasion of Iraq.
— Al Venter, "A Circle of WMD in the Middle East," Jane's Islamic Affairs Analyst, 1 December 2002,

1 December 2002
The London-based Sunday Telegraph reported that Egypt persuaded Iraq to hide its weapons of mass destruction
in surrounding countries. This report prompts a response by Egypt's State Information Service Chief Nabil Usman,
who states that the claim is in sharp contradiction to Egypt's policy of seeking a Middle East free of WMD.
— "Egypt Reports UK Paper's Publication of Response to Allegations over Iraq," BBC Monitoring International

August 2002
Concerns over a Middle East arms race include the marriage of Egypt's missile capability (which has been assisted
by North Korea and China) with its chemical weapons capability, which dates back to the 1950s.

19 March 2002
Testimony before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee states that Egypt was the first Arab country to
"develop, produce, stockpile, deploy, and use chemical weapons"; its program dates back to the early 1960s. Egypt
probably possesses mustard, phosgene, sarin, and VX.
nexis.com.

2 February 2002
Egypt continues to be suspected of stockpiling chemical weapons.

January 2002
According to Middle East analyst Anthony Cordesman, Egypt has production facilities for mustard and nerve
agents. The sources of the precursors for these agents are unknown, although Cordesman suggests Egypt tried to
obtain feed stocks from Canada. In addition, Egypt has the ability to produce cyanide gas. Cordesman also cites a
September 1993 London Times article that claims Egypt acquired approximately 90 tons of trimethyl "phosphate," a
precursor for "the mustard agent."
[Note: This Cordesman report is the only source that mentions Egyptian efforts to obtain such material from
Canada. Furthermore, CNS researchers could not track down any Times report that mentioned a trimethyl
"phosphate" shipment from India to Egypt. There was a September 1993 Times article that mentions two separate
shipments: 1) a trimethyl phospite (potential nerve agent key precursor) shipment from India to Syria; and 2)
reported thionyl chloride shipments from India to Egypt. Thionyl chloride, a chlorinating agent, is a potential precursor for the mustard and nerve agents. (Michael Evans, "Spy Agencies Join Forces to Combat Secret Arms Trade, The Times, 20 September 1993.)]


6 December 2001
In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper *al-Safir*, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak states that Egypt continues to be willing to free the Middle East of WMD. The region may someday be destroyed by these weapons, he believes, which could adversely affect U.S. regional interests.


December 2001
In a list of "who has what" regarding chemical weapons, Egypt is listed as a "likely" possessor of a CW program.


November 2001
Iran questions its ratification of the NPT in light of the fact that there is an arms race in the Middle East and none of its rivals in the region have ratified the NPT, including nuclear capable Israel and chemical capable Egypt.


15 November 2001
Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak states that continued U.S. military aid to Israel could encourage Arab countries to develop WMD programs. "Israel is in the process of amassing weapons, and America is supplying it with these weapons," he says. Later, Egyptian spokesman, Nabil Osman, clarifies that the president's comments were not meant as a threat to Israel or the United States or as a threat that Egypt will develop its own WMD. Although Egypt has signed neither the CWC nor the BWC, Egypt, according to the spokesman, is not interested in developing these weapons.


11 October 2001
Egyptian Ambassador to the UN Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt reiterates Egypt's commitment to nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation in order to create a Middle East free of WMD.


26 September 2001
Egypt is included in a list of countries suspected of possessing tabun, sarin, soman, GF, VX, and mustard agents.

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13 April 2001
Egypt publishes a report, authored by "Mr. Arms Control" Nabil Fahmi, one of Egypt’s senior diplomats, addressing a plan for regional security that includes the closing down of Israel’s Dimona nuclear reactor. The plan also includes several confidence-building measures, one of which is declarations by countries in the Middle East promising not to use any WMD.

November 2000
The suggestion that Israel poses a CW threat to Egypt is dismissed in an article published in an official journal of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The article also outlines the thinking behind Egyptian efforts to link ratification of the CWC to Israeli progress on acknowledging and reducing its nuclear weapons.

23 October 2000
At the 55th regular session of the UN General Assembly, member states discuss the CWC, during which Egypt exercises its right to reply in response to Director General of the OPCW Jose M. Bustani’s communicated desire that all countries join the Convention. Egypt, according to representative Ahmed Darwish, has not acceded to the CWC due to Israel’s refusal to accede to the NPT. However, Egypt does adhere to its provisions.

3 April 2000
U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen meets with his Egyptian counterpart, Defense Minister Field Marshall Mohammed Hussein Tantawi, to discuss plans to organize Arab states’ defenses against chemical and biological weapons.

27 March 2000
Noting that suspected possession of WMD is prevalent in the Middle East, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak believes countries in the region are all "suspicious" of each other, which presents a barrier to peace in the region.

12 January 2000
The Ministry of Military Production supervises the National Organization for Military Production (NOMP), which works closely with the Arab Organization of Industrialization (AOI). The NOMP manages 16 factories, which are

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divided into four groups. One of these groups is the chemical industries consisting of three factories. One of the three factories is the Heliopolis Company for Chemical Industries, which manufactures, among other things, ammunition, mines, and NBC protection equipment.


12 January 2000
The Egyptian Army is assumed to control Egypt’s chemical weapons arsenal. Though Egypt appears to have reduced chemical agent production levels, concerns remain over the possibility of merging current chemical agents with Egypt’s ballistic missile capability.


12 January 2000
Jane’s Defence Weekly publishes a report examining Egypt’s strategic position and military capabilities. The report notes that "Egypt is widely believed to possess large quantities of chemical weapons."


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**September 1999**

Stating that Egypt has no intention in participating in an arms race, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak mentions that any ban on chemical weapons must coincide with Israel's signing of the NPT.


**August 1999**

Egyptian Political Advisor to President Hosni Mubarak, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, states in a meeting in Alexandria that Israel should dismantle its nuclear arsenal in the next five to seven years or other Arab countries will look for their own non-conventional weapons systems. This marks the first time Egypt has put a timeframe on the dismantlement of Israel's nuclear arsenal and the first time Egypt has threatened to develop a WMD program.


**March 1999**

US Secretary of Defense William Cohen remarks on a meeting held with Egyptian Minister of Defense Field Marshal Tantawi, stating that the United States will help Egypt modernize its defense and look for more cooperation on chemical and biological weapons.


**March 1999**

Egyptian Political Advisor to President Hosni Mubarak, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, notes that US policy in support of Israel's suspected regional nuclear superiority is a mistake and talks of reducing regional WMD supplies might be considered unreasonable as long as Israel nuclear arsenal remains unaddressed.


**Winter 1999**

Egypt is regarded as a chemical weapons state in a list of WMD state actors.


**October 1998**

At a meeting of the UN First Committee (Disarmament and International Security), Egypt reiterates President Mubarak's desire to create a Middle East WMD-free zone and commits to signing the CWC and BWC as long as Israel ratifies the NPT and subjects its facilities to IAEA safeguards.


**October 1998**

In a nationally televised address, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak expresses concern over Israeli weapons, long-
range missiles, and research programs. He directly mentioned the 1992 crash of an El Al cargo plane in the Netherlands, which was apparently carrying 50 liters of a chemical used in the synthesis of sarin.

September 1998
The Defense Intelligence Agency's 1990 survey "Offensive Chemical Warfare Programs in the Middle East" states that Egypt continues chemical weapons research.

July 1998
Egypt and Iraq agree to promote the manufacturing of pharmaceutical vaccines and exchange expertise in the field.

July 1998
Egypt and Iran enter an agreement to market and export pharmaceuticals between the two countries. Egypt will market Iranian products in Arab and African countries while Iran markets Egyptian products in Asia, Russia and surrounding countries.
[Note: Though the entry is not immediately pertinent to CW development, it demonstrates scientific ties between Iran and Egypt that could potentially open doors for future more illicit cooperation.]

April 1998
US officials are criticized for advertising the biological and chemical weapons threat emanating from Middle Eastern countries without adequately mentioning Egypt and Israel. Egypt's chemical and biological weapons programs have "an extensive history." However, Egypt is not suspected of having a chemical or biological weapons arsenal ready for immediate use.

March 1998
The Egyptian Ambassador to the UN Nabil El-Araby states that since 1974, Egypt has been calling for a nuclear-weapon-free zone and that since 1990, President Mubarak has been calling for a WMD- free zone. The establishment of this zone will continue to be a high priority for the Egyptian government.

February 1998
Egypt exports between 48,000 and 50,000 personal protective "gas" masks to Kuwait, which were ordered by the Civil Defense agencies of the Kuwait Interior Ministry.
Some 50,000 Gas Masks Imported from Egypt," BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, 7 February 1997; "Egypt Exports Gas Masks to Kuwait," The Middle East Observer, 11 February 1998.

December 1997
Israel airs concerns that Egypt is producing VX nerve agent at a "conventional" chemicals factory near Cairo. Egypt has hinted that it will destroy its stocks of VX agent if Israel signs the NPT, but Israel refuses due to threats posed by Syria, Iran and Iraq.

December 1997
The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) calls on Egypt, among other countries, to sign the CWC. Director General Jose Bustani states that it is "crucial if the convention is to meet its objective" of eliminating all chemical weapons over ten years. Bustani believes Egypt has a "fundamental role to play" in the future of the OPCW.

November 1997
Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny reaffirms Egyptian policy, which is to favor regional arms control managing biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

November 1997
According to the Stimson Center, nine nations including Egypt have chemical and biological weapons.

November 1997
Eighty-one countries support the expansion of the five-year-old UN Arms Register, which then tracked conventional weapons transfers, to include weapons of mass destruction. However, because the expansion lacks adequate support, Egypt has decided to stop participating in the registry. Egypt seems uninterested in revealing its conventional arms purchases as long as Israel refuses to list its WMD related purchases. "The Arms Registry was set up with the understanding that WMD would be included in it. Despite repeated reaffirmation of that aim, no attempts have been made to do so," said Egyptian delegate to the UN Committee on Disarmament and International Security Maged Abdel Aziz.

November 1997
Jose Marucio Bustani, Director General of the Organization of the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), expresses his hopes that the recent ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention by Russia, India, Iran, and particularly Jordan— an Arab state— may cause Egypt to reconsider its position against signing the CWC, which it continues to link to Israel's non-signing of the NPT.

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**September 1997**
The *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* publishes a report which draws on two declassified documents: a 1983 Special National Intelligence Estimate—a compendium of opinion from U.S. intelligence agencies including the CIA, DIA, and NSA—titled "Implications of Soviet Use of Chemical and Toxin Weapons for U.S. Security Interests" and a 1990 DIA study titled "Offensive Chemical Warfare Programs in the Middle East." The 1983 report notes that Egypt was the "first country to obtain chemical weapons training, indoctrination and materiel" in the Middle East. The 1990 report "concluded that Egypt was continuing to conduct research related to chemical agents."

**March 1997**
The US Army Chemical School at Fort McClellan, Alabama runs a Chemical Officer Basic Course, which has trained Egyptian officers through the rank of major.

**December 1996**
At the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, Egyptian delegate Mounir Zahran states that all Middle East countries, with the exception of Israel, established in 1990 a WMD-free zone.

**November 1996**
The representative of Egypt at the UN First Committee on Disarmament and International Security states that Egypt traditionally supports disarmament measures such as the Chemical Weapons Convention and therefore sympathized with the "general thrust of the draft." Nevertheless, Egypt would continue to refuse to sign the CWC until Israel signs the NPT.

**September 1996**
In an interview by *Insight on the News*, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is asked if, during recent talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, he raised the issue of Egypt's production of chemical and biological weapons. Netanyahu responds stating concern about chemical and biological weapons proliferation in the region, but did not answer the question directly.

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**September 1996**
The Egyptian foreign minister continues to stress that "the region must be totally free from all weapons of mass destruction, be they nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their delivering vehicles."

**September 1996**
Dubbed "Badr 96" and called "the largest strategic maneuvers" ever in Egypt, a 10-day set of military exercises takes place in Egypt to prepare for a possible nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons attack. Chemical warfare response units take part in four days of maneuvers in the Suez Canal and Sinai region. The maneuvers anger Israel, prompting Egypt to claim no belligerent intentions towards it. Israel is unsatisfied, prompting Egypt to accuse Israel of beating "war drums."

**August 1996**
According to an unnamed Egyptian foreign ministry official, "Egypt will not sign the convention because of the imbalance in military forces in the Middle East even though Cairo supports the convention....Egypt's position is clear. We will not sign the convention banning chemical weapons until Israel signs the NPT."

**August 1996**
Egypt reiterates its intention not to sign the Chemical Weapons Convention until Israel signs the NPT.

**July 1996**
Egypt rejects a pan-African call to ban chemical weapons at an Organization of African Unity summit and calls for a more detailed study instead. Foreign Minister Amr Mussa states the issue of a ban on chemical weapons is "too complicated for a simple call."

**June 1996**
Egypt's state-owned newspaper *al-Ahram* states that Egypt has "the full right to possess weapons seen to be necessary for its security and the protection of its sovereignty." Accusing the United States of a double-standard, the paper states that disarmament must start with Israel's nuclear and chemical weapons and ground-to-ground missiles.

**June 1996**
Western intelligence agencies assert that Egypt is involved in chemical and biological weapons production with Libya "as it previously was with Iraq." British, French, US, and Russian intelligence suggest that Egypt retains

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chemical and biological weapons, despite Egyptian denials. Egyptian-Iraqi cooperation on chemical and biological weapons reached a peak immediately prior to Iraq’s 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Egypt’s foreign and defense ministers defended Iraq’s right to possess chemical and biological weapons. In 1993, as states were signing the Chemical Weapons Convention, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was in Syria calling on Arab states not to sign the treaty. — Yedidya Atlas, “Egypt Helps Rogue States While Accepting US Aid,” *Insight on the News*, 17 June 1996, p. 18.

**February 1996**

Egypt continues to suggest that it will keep chemical weapons to counter Israel’s nuclear threat. Although Egypt is no longer suspected of producing chemical weapons, some believe its chemical and fertilizer industry could be mobilized to produce chemical weapons.


**February 1996**

During the 1973 war with Israel, Egypt apparently kept "black barrels" containing a toxic "poison gas" allegedly developed by German scientists on an airfield. Intelligence sources believe Egypt’s Anwar al-Sadat did not resort to using the poison for fear of massive retaliation. [Note: The intelligence sources referred in this citation are most likely Israeli, but it is not explicitly stated.]


**Autumn 1995**

It is the opinion of Ahmed Hashim, senior fellow in political-military affairs at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, that the United States has not viewed Egypt’s potential CW acquisition with less concern than of such acquisition by Iran or Iraq. Egypt recognizes the need to support its conventional forces with chemical weapons in order to have a strong but "basic" deterrent — considered "basic" because they are less sophisticated and require less effort and resources to produce than nuclear weapons.


**April 1995**

As the NPT review and extension conference nears, Egypt, according to a senior Egyptian official, is seeking a commitment from Israel, "however vague," that it will agree to denuclearize in the future. If it does so, Egypt is prepared to offer to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stated the previous day at a press conference with President Clinton that "since peace is spreading throughout the region, all the parties ought to work together toward the elimination of the potential threats, especially the spreading of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons." Ultimately, Egypt does sign the indefinite extension to the NPT (while Israel continues to remain outside.)

February 1995
Commentator and military analyst Danny Lesham, writing in Israel's Yediot Aharanot, claims that not enough attention is paid to Egypt's chemical weapons programs, which include the production line purchased from Switzerland.

February 1995
At a meeting billed as the "Cairo Summit," Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Jordanian leader King Hussein, and PLO Chairman Yaser Arafat support Mubarak's proposal for a verifiable Middle East WMD-free zone but cannot reach agreement on how to treat the issue of Israel's suspected nuclear arsenal.

January 1995
Former Egyptian Defense Minister and Intelligence Chief Amin Howeidl believes Israel's nuclear arsenal can be deterred with "conventional-plus" arms such as chemical, biological, and incendiary weapons, until Egypt develops a nuclear deterrent.

January 1995
Though Egypt seems to harbor no plans for nuclear weapons, it remains secretive about its chemical and biological capabilities.

January 1995
According to Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister Mustafa Abdelaziz, Egypt's position on Israel's nuclear weapons "is decisive and final" and until Israel's nuclear policy changes, Egypt would refuse to sign the Chemical Weapons Convention and the NPT. Egypt's concerns are to protect the security of Egypt and the Arab region as well as preserving the peace process.

January 1995
Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, referring to Israel, claims, "I have demanded that the states of the Middle East region be free of all total-destruction weapons— chemical, biological or any kind of total-destruction weapons. If we are to sign, since we are all in one region and involved in the peace process, we must all sign. But for Egypt to sign and Israel not to sign, that would be difficult for me as a citizen to accept. I have behind me a public opinion
that would ask me, 'Why did you sign?'"

**January 1995**

Despite displeasure with several Arab states over the signing of the CWC, Egypt continues to build an Arab position threatening withdrawal from the NPT when the treaty is up for extension later this year. The consortium includes Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, which are acting in response to Israel's refusal to sign the treaty. According to Egypt, discussions regarding weapons of mass destruction disarmament will only take place once Israel is subject to the same treaties as the rest of the region.

**1994-1990**

**December 1994**

Osama al-Baz, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's top political advisor, states to an audience at Cairo University that "Egypt does not accept military superiority for any state in the region and demands the elimination of chemical and nuclear weapons, all weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East, as well as a reduction in traditional weapons...It is inconceivable for Egypt and the Arab states to sign treaties for the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction when Israel continues to refuse to sign the nuclear NPT, subject its nuclear installations to international inspection and get rid of its nuclear stockpile."

**December 1994**

CIA officials visit Egypt, unannounced, to discuss suspected Egyptian-Libyan cooperation regarding chemical weapons production. The fundamentalist Egyptian newspaper *al-Shaab* reported that Egyptian officials denied the allegations, challenging CIA Director James Woolsey to provide the names of the "hundreds" of former Iraqi chemical weapons experts now suspected of working in Egypt. Also, Egypt is attempting to have Arab countries repeal ratification of the NPT and discouraging signature of the chemical weapons ban until Israel "accepts international inspection of its nuclear facilities."

**December 1994**

Egypt is thought to be among several Arab states possessing chemical and/or biological capabilities.

**November 1994**

During a recent European trip, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak states that Egypt will not support a ban on

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chemical weapons until Israel signs the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

November 1994
Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak favorably views a proposal forwarded by Greek National Defense Minister Yerasimos Arsenis calling for a "nuclear-free and chemical weapons-free zone" in the broader area of the eastern Mediterranean.

October 1994
Egypt allegedly maintains a stockpile of mustard and nerve agents but no longer produces any, demonstrating a slow-down of Egypt's chemical weapons effort. In terms of chemical weapons defense, Egypt has taken advantage of Soviet technology for personal protective gear and decontamination devices and Western technology such as the Fuchs NBC reconnaissance vehicle. Egypt's military industrial complex includes Abu Za'bal and Kata factories for the production of powders, rocket propellants, primer caps, and small arms ammunition.

September 1994
Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa states that Egypt will not sign the "Chemical Weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty" until all Middle Eastern countries do so.

November 1993
Egypt appears to be interested in purchasing chemical weapons-detection equipment from Slovakia, according to the Slovak Defense Ministry.

September 1993
A British inquiry has indicated that in September 1986, the United Kingdom sanctioned the export of 26 tons of hydrogen fluoride to Egypt. The export was undertaken despite Israeli intelligence claims that the material was eventually being diverted to Iraq's CW program. Timothy Renton, the British Foreign Office Minister from 1985-87, initially objected to the sale but was weakened by Israel's unwillingness to provide collateral evidence of the diversion and by an earlier British sale of 60 tons of the same material to Egypt. He relented when British Trade Minister Alan Clark claimed the chemicals could just as easily be used for legitimate purposes. The claim was naturally supported by Egyptian officials, and Foreign Minister Renton communicated to the Egyptians that the shipments not be diverted to another state or be used in warfare.

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**June 1993**

Egypt is suspected of passing chemical warfare defense equipment and parts for ground-to-ground missiles (imported from Britain) to Iraq as far back as 1984.


**April 1993**

Using local and imported raw materials, Egypt can allegedly produce certain types of chemical weapons including nerve and blister agents. Though Egypt does not maintain enough chemical agent stocks for "broad-based operations," it has the capability of engaging in a rapid development program if needed.


**February 1993**

The Egyptian Pavilion debuts sophisticated military equipment including "anti-poison gas" protection gear and systems for purging effects of chemical weapons at the Abu Dhabi Defence Equipment Exhibition in United Arab Emirates.


**February 1993**

The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service presents findings that 16 countries possess or are close to possessing nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons. The list included Egypt, which according to the report is capable of producing nerve agents and other "poison gases."


**January 1993**

Egyptian Information Minister Safwat El-Sherif announces his governments refusal to sign the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) "until arms curbs are introduced in the Middle East on a balanced basis and without exception, particularly in light of Israel's nuclear armament," according to Egyptian Information Minister Safwat El-Sherif.


**October 1991**

In April 1990, Egypt proposed that nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons be prohibited in the Middle East and that all states make "equal and reciprocal commitments" to declare the Middle East free of WMD and ban future WMD-related projects. Egypt's concern continues to be Israel.


**Winter 1991**

Several countries suspected of developing ballistic missile systems also allegedly possess chemical warfare ability, including Egypt.

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**July 1991**

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak still maintains an interest in regional weapons of mass destruction disarmament and continues to air concerns over Israel's and Iraq's respective arsenals.


**July 1991**

Prior to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, Saddam Hussein formed an economic body called the Arab Cooperation Council, which in addition to Iraq included Egypt, Jordan, and North Yemen. During Baghdad's attempt to transform this group into a military organization, Egypt is believed to have shared rudimentary chemical weapons technology with Baghdad.


**January 1991**

Egypt is noted as one of 12 countries outside NATO and the Warsaw Pact that have chemical weapons and is suspected of sharing the technology with Iraq.


**December 1990**

William Quandt of the Brookings Institution says Saddam Hussein's chemical weapons can be countered by Israel, Egypt, Syria, and Iran, all of which have chemical weapons.


**December 1990/January 1991**

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is expected to play a leading role towards regional weapons of mass destruction disarmament, which has gained momentum given Iraq's endorsement of Egypt's 1990 regional nuclear disarmament plan. Mubarak's goals are to establish two parallel commissions on nuclear and chemical disarmament to address Israel's and Iraq's non-conventional arms, which are thought to include chemical weapons capabilities. This marks the first time Egypt has acceded to discussion severing chemical weapons from nuclear issues in the region.


**August 1990**

Fearing an Iraqi chemical attack, Saudi Arabia requests Egyptian assistance. In response Egypt deploys several hundred troops trained in nuclear-biological-chemical defense. The contribution includes commandos, paratroopers, chemical-warfare specialists, and infantrymen, all of whom have been equipped with gas masks. Though Egypt's relationship with chemical weapons is quite extensive, Saudi praise of Egypt's "experience" in this field is understandably minimized. Egypt is suspected of stockpiling mustard agents and the nerve agents, tabun

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and sarin.

23 January 1990
Egypt participates in national trial inspections as a part of the conference of disarmament’s preparation for the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). It is the only Middle Eastern state, other than Iran, to do so.

1989-1987

December 1989
Most of Egypt’s defense programs fall under either the National Organization for Military Production (al-Hay'at al-Qawmiyya il'intāq al-harbī), which is run by the Ministry of Defense Production or the National Organization for Military Production (NOMP), which falls under the Ministry of Military Production. This is a bit of a misnomer because each factory within the NOMP is a supposedly independent company (the companies were formerly known Military Plant No. "X" or Factory "X"). The military industrial complex known as Abu Za'abal contains Abu Za'abal Company for Engineering Industries (Factory 100). It was founded in 1976 and covers 500,000 square meters. The company description provides no hint of chemical weapons production. However, the Abu Za'abal Company for Specialized Chemicals (Factory 18) produces powders for ammunition, rocket propellants, explosives (TNT) and ammonium perchlorate for composite propellants. The Kaha Company for Chemical Industries (Factory 270) produces smoke generators, illuminating flares, ammunition, dry batteries and nickel cadmium batteries. The military complex known as Heliopolis (Factory 81) is called the Heliopolis Company for Chemical Industries. Of interest, Factory 1 within the complex produces smoke and illuminating shells, and Factory 2 allegedly produces napalm bombs and gas masks.

December 1989
Minister of Defense and War Production General Youssef Sabri Abu Taleb states in an interview, "Egypt is one of the signatories of the 1925 Geneva Convention which prohibits the use of those chemical weapons, so we announced that we are not in possession of them." Abu Taleb believes the best way to address the issue of CW proliferation in the region is to resolve the Arab-Israeli and Iraqi-Iranian conflicts.

September 1989
Iran and Iraq join Egypt, Syria, and Libya in either openly deploying chemical weapons or being suspected of producing them. Egypt is believed to have provided Syria with their CW technology.

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**September 1989**

Though Western and US intelligence agree that 20 countries, including Egypt, possess chemical weapons, the United States has never published an official list of the chemical weapons "club."

**September 1989**

During a chemical weapons conference in Canberra, Australia, Israel proposes discussions on banning chemical weapons in the Middle East. Egypt, Iran, and Iraq reject the proposal, preferring to wait until December to discuss the issue in Geneva at a UN meeting. US and Canadian chemical weapons experts believe Middle Eastern states including Egypt are not likely to give up their chemical weapons.

**September 1989**

Arab diplomats believe Egypt may have supplied Iraq with "rudimentary technology" to produce chemical weapons.

**August 1989**

Egypt's new defense minister, General Sabri Youssef Abu Taleb, states that Egypt is not acquiring chemical weapons.

**July 1989**

As the United States and Soviets proceed encouragingly on a treaty to eliminate chemical weapons, concerns are expressed on how to convince countries like Egypt, assumed to possess chemical weapons, to consent to data exchanges and inspection procedures.

**July 1989**

Chemical companies in India, where export restrictions are relatively loose, reportedly sold "hundreds of tons" of chemicals to make CW agents to Egypt, Iran and Iraq over the previous two years. The chemicals sold include thionyl chloride, a chemical precursor for mustard agents. [Note: Without thiodyglycol, thionyl chloride is simply and industrial agent.]

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June 1989
President Mubarak urges Libyan leader Qaddafi to alter some policies, including its pursuit of chemical weapons, if he wants to change Libya's "bad image."

May 1989
US sources claim that their intelligence and military have known "for a long time" that Egypt is developing chemical weapons. Furthermore, over the past year, the Israelis are suspected of exploding an Egyptian military depot revealing a stockpile of chemical weapons and inadvertently releasing a lethal effect.

May 1989
The joint Egyptian-Iraqi missile program for the Badr-2000 missile seems capable of carrying a chemical warhead, but according to the report, "it is known that neither Egypt nor Iraq is capable of developing the technology for a chemical warhead."

April 1989
Egypt's Minister of Defence Field Marshal Abdel-Halim Abu Ghazala steps down, seemingly under orders from President Mubarak, who wants "to introduce new thinking and new blood into the armed forces." Abu Ghazala was considered the second most powerful man in Egypt with the second most powerful post. Explanations include the embarrassing set of recent allegations concerning the existence of an Egyptian chemical weapons program.

April 1989
An Egyptian delegate at a Toronto conference sponsored by the Working Group on International Surveillance and Verification accused "East and West alike" of hypocrisy regarding chemical and biological weapons: "you're telling us 'We have ours, but you can't get yours'." Unspecified intelligence reports state that Egypt may seek a "poor man's" strategic weapon that could include chemical warheads on ballistic missiles.

April 1989
Egypt appears to be building a missile production plant at Abu Za'abal at "Military Factory 90," where Egypt is also reported to be developing a chemical weapons plant. Egypt worked closely with Argentina and Iraq in the early 1980s on the Condor II missile, a two-stage rocket capable of flying a 700kg payload over 1,000km.
April 1989
During a visit to Washington, DC, Egyptian President Mubarak emphatically denied Egypt was involved in chemical weapons production, according to a senior Bush administration official.

April 1989
The Bush administration is criticized by unnamed developing countries claiming that the United States is "selective in its outrage over chemical weapons, getting more upset about them in Libya and possibly Egypt than in Europe."

26 March 1989
US officials discussing chemical weapons programs cite a 1985 deal in which Stauffer Chemicals, a US company, provided a design for a plant in Egypt that "makes a chemical that can be used to make both nerve gas and non-lethal civilian products." According to a New York Times report, "In 1985, Stauffer Chemicals sold the design for a chemical plant to make phosphorous trichloride to Krebs A.G., a Swiss company. The contract specified that the plant, modeled after a Stauffer plant in Pennsylvania, would be built by Krebs for El Nasr Pharmaceutical Company of Egypt."

The plant, which is complete, is used to synthesize phosphorous trichloride, which can innocuously be used in pesticide manufacture or as a sarin precursor. US officials are reportedly concerned that the chemicals produced could supply a second plant, the materials for which Krebs supplies. American officials also "for the first time identified many of the more 20 nations" that the US administration says have produced "poison gas" or are developing the ability to make it, including Egypt.

13 March 1989
According to Israeli experts, chemical weapons are "standard issue" in the Egyptian Army, which has the potential to fit chemical warheads on surface-to-surface missiles and to aircraft bombs. Israelis claim that Abu Za'abal is not the only means Egypt has for producing chemical weapons. Egypt and Iraq have been working "for years" on producing and stockpiling chemical weapons. Egypt seems to have a great deal of public support regarding chemical weapons production in order not to "lag behind" other countries in the region. The Abu Za'abal plant is believed to be 80 percent complete.

11 March 1989
Brigadier Nagi el-Tohami, the Defense Ministry spokesman for Egypt, denies acquiring Swiss technology to improve its ability to produce chemical weapons, but Western diplomats state that Egypt possesses the ability and

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may have exported Soviet-technology to other Arab states. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak also denied that Egypt planned to build a poison gas plant. He stated, "we are not building any...plants...we are against all chemical weapons. We condemn all this." President Mubarak, who responded to questions while in Brussels, also claimed, "This is the first time I've heard of it." Krebs, meanwhile, halted the project at Abu Za'abal at the request of the Swiss government.


10 March 1989
In a US State Department briefing that covered-in part-the Krebs allegation, spokesman Charles Redman states that the United States engages Egypt "frequently and closely" on issues concerning proliferation of WMD. Redman also notes that dual-use issues complicate issues like the Krebs allegation, as does Swiss law, which does not provide for controls on chemical production machinery (though chemicals and precursors are covered). Redman believes the Egyptians advertised the facility as a pharmaceutical plant.


10 March 1989
US and Swiss officials state that the Swiss company Krebs A.G. delivered "parts" to Egypt to be installed in a plant "intended to make poison gas" at Abu Za'abal, 25 miles north of Cairo. A Swiss foreign ministry official says there is "reason to believe" Egypt has intentions to produce chemical weapons, which might include the nerve agent sarin. The Swiss government took action after Egypt refused to provide assurances that the plant would be used for civilian purposes, prompting a demand that Krebs sever its relationship with the project. The United States criticized the Swiss for acting too slowly.

Krebs also built a chemical plant for the El Nasr Pharmaceutical Company to make phosphorous trichloride, a chemical found in pesticides and the export of which is controlled. It is not clear if the plant is used for military purposes. Design plans for the facility were purchased by Krebs from the American industrial chemical company, Stauffer Chemicals Inc. Egypt declined to state what chemical(s) would be produced at the plant, though Egypt's current capabilities are thought to include mustard and nerve agents. Mohammed Wahby, Egypt's spokesman in Washington, denied plans to build a chemical weapons plant. "We are not involved in the manufacturing of chemical weapons," he said. The plant is part of a military industrial complex that is also expected to include a joint Egyptian-American plant for M-1 tank assembly.


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**January 1989**

In a discussion on trade restrictions, German Free Democrat leader Graf Lambsdorf calls for strictly supervised international conventions to stop the flow of chemical weapons systems. According to Tat-Aluf (res.) Aharon Levran, editor of the Jaffee Institute's *Middle East Balance*, it is too late to stop CW programs in countries like Egypt, which have already benefited from assistance from West German companies.


**January 1989**

When asked about chemical weapons, Israeli Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron states that he believes Egypt has the means to produce chemical weapons.


**January 1989**

US intelligence sources state at least four Arab countries possess chemical weapons, including Egypt.


**January 1989**

Egypt continues to press for a nuclear-chemical parallel link at the 149-nation Paris Conference, at which Egypt is seen as championing the Arab unilateral disarmament argument. The only Arab countries to participate in the 40-nation Geneva talks, however, are limited to Egypt, Algeria, and Morocco, despite concerns regarding Syria and Iraq's CW programs.


**January 1989**

Suspicious regarding Egypt's chemical weapons program are reasserted. Elisa Harris, a chemical weapons specialist at the Brookings Institution and contributor to the London-based "Brassey's Defense Yearbook," claims that "every confirmed use of chemical weapons since the First World War" has been effective militarily and psychologically, including Egypt's use in Yemen between 1963 and 1967. Egypt has facilities capable of producing chemical weapons.


**January 1989**

While referring to disarmament of chemical weapons, Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid states in an interview during the Paris Conference that, "we cannot say only chemical weapons. We also have to talk about other mass destruction weapons. We would like this position to be spelled out so that while we are condemning..."
chemical weapons, we don't neglect nuclear weapons." However, he adds that Egypt will not insist on a link among different WMD in a final chemical weapons nonproliferation agreement. According to Abdel-Meguid, the Parisian Conference indicates broad interest in addressing chemical weapons. He advocates a meeting of all concerned countries prior to an agreement's endorsement to create a mechanism for sanctions for noncompliance.

[Note: The Russian Information Agency refers to Abdel-Meguid as "Deputy Prime Minister."]


January 1989
US administration officials continue to suspect Egypt possesses chemical weapons.


January 1989
The Reagan administration is expected to propose that the United Nations be given broad powers allowing the organization to investigate suspected chemical weapon use anywhere in the world. The announcement comes as the United States seemed particularly concerned with chemical weapons production among Middle Eastern countries, including Egypt. According to a New York Times article, "there have been reports that Egypt, Iran, Iraq and Libya are employing chemical weapons in warfare."


December 1987
US intelligence indicates that Libya might be building a chemical weapons plant. Egypt, a suspected possessor of chemical weapons, has tense relations with Libya, raising the possibility that a skirmish might escalate to include the use of chemical weapons.


November 1987
A meeting in Egypt between Presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania leads to a joint Egyptian-Romanian statement advocating international efforts towards the elimination of chemical weapons. "Egypt – Ceausescu, Mubarak Favour End to Arms Race," The Russian Information Agency, 24 November 1987.

November 1987
As the prospect of a worldwide agreement addressing a ban on chemical weapons improves, Kenneth L. Adelman, Director of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, notes that the number of chemical weapons states has increased to "15 to 20 chemical weapon states." The article, not Adelman, cites that Egypt "has not said if it has chemical weapons."

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September 1987
The Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University in Israel releases a 462-page study by former Israeli military intelligence chief Aharon Yariv, stating that Arab states either "either possess, or can acquire, chemical weaponry."

February 1987
In a statement on behalf of the Egyptian government, the head of the Egyptian delegation at the Geneva Disarmament Conference, Saad Alfarargi, addresses several weapons of mass destruction related issues and notes in the statement that "the A.R.E. [Arab Republic of Egypt] favours an agreement on a ban on chemical weapons."

1986-1928

January 1986
The United States and Soviet Union discuss a potential agreement to curb the proliferation of chemical weapons. According to US intelligence, the Soviets have supplied six countries, including Egypt, with chemical weapons' material, technology, or advice during the previous two decades.

September 1985
A Washington Post article refers to reports that Egypt is "alleged to possess" chemical weapons. Among its sources, it refers to a September 1983 US intelligence estimate from the CIA, initially made public by Washington Post writers Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta in August 1984. The report claims that "Egypt received Soviet chemical-weapons training, indoctrination and material in the 1960s while it was the major Soviet client in the Middle East." It also refers to Egypt's chemical arsenal as probably the most advanced in the Arab world, a claim supported by the Israelis.
May 1984
Defense Department officials estimate that 14 to 16 countries have chemical weapons, including Egypt.

January 1982
In a survey of Egypt’s aircraft factories, the United States notes that Military Plant No. 36, which is simply known as "Aircraft Factory," produces decontamination equipment among other seemingly non-CW related materials.

January 1982
Egypt openly desires US weapons technology. Egyptian production plant Military Plant No. 81 (later known as the Heliopolis Company for Chemical Industries) begins to produce gas masks.

February 1981
The United States might be negotiating an increased military presence in Egypt. Citing the Kuwaiti newspaper al-Hadaf, the BBC article states vaguely that a base will be constructed "on the Mediterranean coast of Egypt" for storage of chemical weapons. [Note: It is not clear from the article whether it refers to US or Egyptian chemical weapons.]

1974
Testifying before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on National Security Policy and Scientific Developments, the Acting Secretary for International Security Affairs at the Department of Defense, Mr. Amos A. Jordan, makes a number of observations about CW capabilities in the Middle East. He says: "... during the October 1973 war in the Mideast, it became clear that the U.S.S.R. had provided the Arabs with CW defensive equipment. Of course, no chemical weapons were used during the conflict. It is significant that a substantial quantity of passive chemical defensive equipment was provided. The captured materiel shows us that new Soviet combat vehicles have pressurized crew compartments and sealed ports for crew firing. I should stress, however, that there were no indications at all that the U.S.S.R. provided her Mideast allies with any offensive chemical capability. However, both Israel and Egypt have the technical capability to produce chemical weapons."

Late 1973-1974
Egyptian Defense Minister General Abdel Ghani Gamassi tells the Egyptian parliament that "nuclear weapons [are]
not the only weapons of mass destruction, but that chemical and incendiary weapons could be equally as effective." At this time, Egypt is believed to possess production ability for nerve and blister agents.


Pre-1973/1973

Egypt is suspected of exporting chemical weapons to Syria "shortly" before the October 1973 Middle East war, a claim supported by a 1998 report released by the Defense Intelligence Agency entitled "Chemical Warfare Assessments."


July 1963

Egypt reportedly serves as a conduit for approximately 70,000 gas masks purchased by Iraq from a Switzerland.


July 1963

US Department of State representative to Egypt, John S. Badeau, questions Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser on allegations that Egypt is using "unconventional bombs" (bombs including toxic agents such as mustard) against Yemeni Royalist forces on a daily basis. Nasser claims the poison gas is a napalm bomb called "Opal" but also states that the UAR created a bomb of which he does not know the "precise chemical content." Receiving further pressure from Badeau, Nasser states he defers military decisionmaking to the military.


1963-1967

Egypt is widely suspected of possessing, possibly producing, and using chemical weapons in the form of gas-bombs, including mustard and phosgene, in the Yemeni civil war against Yemeni Republican forces. This resulted in 1,400 deaths, according to the Defense Intelligence Agency. Until the early 1980s, Egypt provided “the only verified use of chemical weapons since World War I,” according to Harvard biochemist Matthew Masselso. Seth Carus of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy claims that Egypt's chemical weapons "probably originated from the Soviet Union." Whereas CBW expert Harvey McGeorge seems more certain, he states that "the Soviets began supplying Egypt...in the early 1960s."


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**June 1963**

Egypt is suspected of dropping mustard agent-containing bombs on Yemeni civilians in Sadah, a village near the Saudi border, on 8 June 1963.


**1963**

By 1963, Egypt completes research and design for the production of nerve agents and cyanide gas, and by 1967, has prepared a defensive capability in case of an Israeli chemical attack.


**1958-1961**

Egypt and Syria form the United Arab Republic (UAR). Syria leaves in 1961 but Egypt retains name until 1972.

[Note: Though the information appears irrelevant for the purpose of a CW chronology, it must be noted because it gives insight into Egyptian-Syrian relations, and the creation of the UAR could have had an affect on exchange of scientific personnel and technology between the two countries. Syria is often accused in Western reports of developing an extensive offensive CW program.]

**1950s-1960s**

Egypt actively recruits German CW experts. It is also reported that German CBW experts were among a team of scientists working in Egypt during the early CW attacks on Yemen.


**1950s-1960s**

Israeli intelligence claims that Egypt is developing chemical and biological warfare (CBW) programs with help from Soviet and German scientists. Additional intelligence reports, however, find no proof that Egypt's CBW programs were led by German scientists. This causes Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion to reprimand the Mossad (Israel's leading intelligence agency) for such claims as they could potentially jeopardize Israeli relationship with West Germany. Israeli Chief of Security Services, Iser Harel, criticizes Ben-Gurion's policy" and resigns in protest in March 1963.


**1938**

The Egyptian government places orders with the British government for the supply of chemical defense stores, including service respirators, containers, Type E, and anti-gas ointment." The British government also supplies Egypt with equipment suitable for training local forces in CW defense.


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1929-1950
There is no publicly available information suggesting that the Egyptian government is engaged in any independent offensive chemical warfare (CW) programs during this period.

6 December 1928
Egypt ratifies the 1925 Geneva Protocol, prohibiting "the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and of bacteriological methods of warfare." Egypt does not attach any reservations or special circumstances to its ratification.

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