



## PRESS RELEASE

**Free Congress  
Foundation**

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### **AD HOC COALITION OF CONSERVATIVE LEADERS URGES SENATOR LOTT TO DEFEAT THE C.W.C.**

*A Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt  
Educational Organization*

(Washington, D.C.) In an extraordinary meeting in the Senate yesterday, nearly 40 conservative leaders representing a wide array of organizations and interests joined forces to appeal to Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott to defeat the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Sen. Lott responded by making clear his concerns about the issues raised by the ad hoc coalition and expressed his determination not to allow a flawed treaty to pass the Senate.

Among those who participated in the 40-minute meeting with Senator Lott were: Paul Weyrich of the Free Congress Foundation, Frank Gaffney of the Center for Security Policy, Don Devine of the American Conservative Union, Mike Farris of the Home School Legal Defense Association, Marty Dannenfelser of the Family Research Council Grover Norquist of Americans for Tax Reform, and nationally syndicated talk radio host Blanquita Cullom. Other prominent conservative organizations that were represented included: Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum, the Heritage Foundation, Gunowners of America, Concerned Women of America, U.S. Business and Industrial Council, Sixty Plus, High Frontier and the National Council for Immigration Reform.

A highlight of the conversation was the presentation of the results of a recent national poll conducted by the Luntz Research Companies. This survey of 900 Americans demonstrates that by 2:1 or better margins the public opposes a Chemical Weapons Convention that would not be effective in eliminating the chemical arsenals of dangerous nations; that would facilitate the proliferation of technology directly relevant to chemical warfare capabilities; that would be unenforceable; or that would authorize UN inspectors to go anywhere in this country, potentially without legal warrants and potentially putting at risk our business or military secrets.

Frank Luntz pointed out to Senator Lott that respondents who identified themselves as having voted Republican in the 1996 congressional elections were even more dramatically -- and intensely -- opposed to such a treaty. Senator Lott acknowledged that four former Secretaries of Defense, among other prominent Americans, have just testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the CWC would have *precisely these effects*.

In a Capitol press conference following their conversations with the Majority Leader, participants underscored their determination to make every effort over the next two weeks to educate the American people and members of the Senate about the dangers inherent in the Chemical Weapons Convention. This determination is further evidenced in a letter sent to Senator Lott today by Paul Weyrich and Frank Gaffney as leaders of the ad hoc coalition (see attachment).



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April 11, 1997

Majority Leader Trent Lott  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

On behalf of the roughly 40 conservative leaders with whom you met yesterday, we wanted to thank you for the opportunity you afforded us to discuss our concerns -- *and yours* -- with the controversial Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). We welcome in particular your suggestion that such meetings could usefully be held in the future to ensure the clearest possible communication between you and those of us who represent an important part of your core constituency.

In our view, this meeting was of singular importance because it demonstrated the broad-based opposition to the fatally flawed CWC among conservatives of every stripe and interest. We are committed to support you and your colleagues in sparing the Nation the real costs associated with its participation in a Convention that cannot rid the world of chemical weapons. As we discussed, this treaty is likely, if anything, to *increase* the danger of chemical attack against the United States, its people, troops and/or allies.

We were particularly gratified by the solidarity you evinced regarding our conviction that the Chemical Weapons Convention will adversely affect U.S. national security, sovereignty, constitutional protections and business competitiveness while significantly advancing President Clinton's "global agenda." You are to be commended for the effort you made last fall to defeat this treaty -- an effort that, as you recalled yesterday, prompted the Administration to withdraw it temporarily from Senate consideration. We are confident that, with comparable leadership on your part over the next two weeks, the CWC can *and will* be defeated, once and for all.

It was particularly fortuitous that the timing of this meeting permitted Frank Luntz to share with you the results of the national survey he had just completed assessing public attitudes towards the flaws inherent in the Chemical Weapons Convention. As you heard, the American people -- *and most especially Republican voters* -- want no part of a treaty: that will be ineffective; that will facilitate the proliferation of technology directly relevant to chemical warfare capabilities; that will be unenforceable; or that would authorize UN inspectors to go anywhere in this country, potentially without legal warrants and potentially putting at risk our business or military secrets.



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In this connection, we wish to reiterate our view that a treaty with the fundamental flaws and ominous implications of the Chemical Weapons Convention cannot be "fixed." Arrangements -- like those you noted had already been agreed with the Administration -- may give the appearance of mitigating the impact of this treaty on the taxpayer, on our constitutional rights or on our ability correctly to perceive and contend with the threat. As we indicated, the danger with such a "process" is the inevitable tendency to suggest that 22 (or 24 or 27) out of 30-odd issues is good-enough-for-government-work. But, if the last, unagreed item is one that endangers our national sovereignty, our civil liberties or our security, the treaty would be as unsupportable as if accommodations had been achieved on none of the other provisions.

What is more, we wish to underscore a point made in the last, eloquent intervention by Marlo Lewis of the Competitive Enterprise Institute: What is fundamentally unacceptable -- *and unalterable* -- about this treaty is the delusion it reinforces that arms control (and, for that matter, other global) agreements based on the good faith of adversaries utterly lacking in it can be of real value to the United States. We will, in the end, wind up paying dearly for such accords. Cosmetic changes that obscure those costs, but cannot eliminate them, should not be permitted to mislead the public about the unacceptability of agreements like the CWC.

For these reasons, the participants in our *ad hoc* coalition urge you to bring your leadership to bear not just to mitigate some of the worst aspects of the Chemical Weapons Convention but to ensure it never becomes the supreme law of the land. We, and the millions of Americans represented by our organizations, look forward to working with you toward that end.

Sincerely,

  
Paul M. Weyrich

  
Frank Gaffney