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CHAPTER 87

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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B.L.R.O. 1/1983

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS ACT

An Act to prohibit the development, production, acquisition 9 of 1975 and possession of certain biological agents and toxins and of biological weapons

Commencement: 11th April 1975

This Act may be cited as the Biological Weapons Act. Short title

(1) No person shall develop, produce, stockpile, acquire or retain —

Restriction development etc. of certain biological agents and toxins and of biological weapons

- (a) any biological agent or toxin of a type and in a quantity that has no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purpose; or
- (b) any weapon, equipment or means of delivery designed to use biological agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.
- (2) In this section —

"biological agent" means any microbial or other agent; and

- (3) Any person contravening this section shall be guilty of an offence: Penalty, imprisonment for life.
- Proceedings for an offence under section 2 above Prosecution shall not be instituted except by or with the consent of the Public Prosecutor.

of offences

Where an offence under section 2 of this Act which is Offences by committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent and connivance of, or to be attributable to any negligence on the part of, any director, mana-

ger, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, he as well as the corporate shall be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Powers to search and obtain evidence

- 5. If a magistrate is satisfied by information on oath that there is reasonable ground for suspecting that an offence under section 2 of this Act has been, or is about to be, committed, he may grant a search warrant authorising the person named therein
 - (a) to enter, at any time within one month from the date of the warrant, any premises or place named therein, if necessary by force, and to search the premises or place of every person found therein;
 - (b) to inspect any document found in the premises or place or in the possession of any person found therein, and to take copies of, or seize or detain any such document;
 - (c) to inspect, seize and detain any equipment so found; and
 - (d) to inspect, sample, seize and detain any substance so found.