



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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CHRISTOPHER FRENZE
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PRESS RELEASE

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FORMER FIRST DEPUTY OF THE SOVIET UNION'S OFFENSIVE BIOLOGICAL WARFARE PROGRAM TO TESTIFY AT JEC HEARING

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Joint Economic Committee Chairman Jim Saxton (R-N.J.) announced today that Kenneth Alibek, former First Deputy of the Soviet Union's Offensive Biological Warfare Program, will testify at a hearing, "*Terrorism and Intelligence Operations*," on May 20, 1998. The Russian program has moved past the use of substances like Anthrax to very sophisticated agents that attach very specific targets in specialized ways.

Alibek is expected to provide new information on Russia's offensive biological weapons program. He will be available for questions by the media after his testimony. The hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 20, 1998, in Room 106 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Alibek earned a medical degree in infectious diseases, a Ph.D. in microbiology, and a doctorate in industrial biotechnology. He spent more than two decades studying the production of many types of biological weapons, such as plagues and anthrax, and the treatment of mass infections. Since his defection to the United States in 1992, Alibek served as a consultant to numerous U.S. government agencies.

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