

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES
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July 7, 1970.

Dr. Martin Kaplan
World Health Organization
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Dear Martin,

It was good to get your letter of June 15. I hope to see you at Pugwash in September. I plan to be in Viet Nam during all of August. Since you told me about Farmian, someone here has urged me to see him in Saigon. If you think it would be helpful and of no possible embarrassment to you, would you supply me with a letter of introduction to Farmian? Incidentally, I am not sure that I have the correct spelling of his name.

A problem may be about to arise concerning the abandonment of biological warfare work by the United States. President Nixon's statement could be read as suggesting that we would no longer conduct laboratory work in biology under conditions of secrecy. This was implied rather strongly in a subsequent background statement put out by the White House. However the question has now come up as to whether laboratory work in biology will be conducted at the classified facility at Dugway, Utah. If the Army gets permission to conduct even "defensive" biological research at Dugway, the principle of no secrecy in biological laboratory research will have been lost. In this connection it is important to notice that the British Draft Convention contains no core prohibition on the development of super virulent or otherwise novel strains with properties especially suitable for biological warfare. Article II of the Convention, as I read it, would prohibit research only when it is aimed at the actual production of biological warfare agents. The loophole is that the development of dangerous new strains could be defended in terms of preparing defenses against such strains. I think that this is an important point for you and me and all of the persons who have been interested for so long in bringing a halt to the development of biological weapons. Perhaps it can be brought out forcefully at Pugwash and, possible, even earlier.

Sarah is feeling fine in our new house in Lexington. We have an extra bedroom set aside for Lenna and you.

With love,

as ever,