

CBW

July 28, 1970.

Mr. Ross Hamachek  
Office of Senator McIntyre  
Senate Office Building 405  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ross,

It seems I simply won't have time to revise the memorandum I sent to you. However, I can summarize what I would do if there were more time. The important point that was not explicitly considered in the memorandum is, of course, that of analyzing specimens submitted by the intelligence community. There are several alternatives/arrangements for conducting these analyses. The work could be done at Dugway, the difficulty with this is that Dugway is a very large secret installation. It would be difficult to persuade the outside world of the defensive nature of any secret biological research done at Dugway. Furthermore, it might even be difficult over the years ahead to restrict such work to defensive purposes only. Another possibility would be to let the intelligence community contract out their work to private contractors. This has been done in the past for the analysis of chemical samples. Still another solution would be to allow such work to be done by some other part of the government, for example the HEW. Another possibility would be to construct an admittedly secret but very small establishment somewhere other than Dugway, Utah. Finally, it could even be argued that we should forego altogether the option of conducting such analyses in total secrecy. My own feeling is that the worst of all these alternatives is to allow secret research in biology to go forward at Dugway.

In this connection, I recall an episode of the 1950's. The Joint Chiefs informed the Secretary of Defense that there would no longer be any requirement for biological anti-crop capability. Accordingly, funds were cut out for this activity. However, some time later, a new comptroller of the chemical corps while doing a routine survey of the corps activities found a thriving research effort on anti-crop warfare going on at Fort Dietrich. The money for this had been obtained through a grant from the Department of Agriculture. I believe this to be true although I do not have original documents to support it. The point is, however, that such arrangements are by no means impossible. If we really want all work on biological weapons to be strictly defensive and to be perceived

survey of the corps' activities found a thriving research effort on anti-crop warfare going on at Fort Dietrich. The money for this had been obtained through a grant from the Department of Agriculture. I believe this to be true although I do not have original documents to support it. The point is, however, that such arrangements are by no means impossible. If we really want all work on biological weapons to be strictly defensive and to be perceived as such, then it seems to me we should be willing to go to a little trouble to make the appropriate arrangements now while the question is in focus before the public and the government.

I expect to be in Viet Nam on behalf of the A.A.A.S. Herbicide Assessment Commission for the next five weeks. I hope to be in touch with you some time after that.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson

MM/ag