

12 Feb 81

Dear Dr. Ellis,

Here are some items dealing with anthrax in general and with the outbreak in Sverdlovsk in particular. As you know, one explanation is that an accident at a secret biological warfare establishment in the southern part of the city released anthrax spores into the air causing up to 1000 people to die of inhalatory anthrax. The official Soviet explanation is that meat contaminated with anthrax caused a "serious outbreak" of intestinal and cutaneous anthrax. The Soviets have not said how many persons were affected.

I have been briefed on the evidence up through the classification level "secret" but not higher. On the basis of what I know, however, I am unconvinced of the military accident--inhalatory anthrax explanation.

I would certainly like to know your further thoughts on the matter after you have looked over the enclosed mini-library.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson