

Fokin

# PUGWASH CONFERENCES ON SCIENCE AND WORLD AFFAIRS

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE

11A, Avenue de la Paix  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland

Telephone: (022) 33 11 80  
Telex: Peace 28 167 CH  
Telegraph: Pugwash. Geneva

## CENTRAL OFFICE

9 Great Russell Mansions,  
60 Great Russell Street.  
London WC1B 3BE  
England

Telephone: 01-405 6661  
Telegraph: Pugwash. London

Geneva, 26 February 1986

Academician Alexander V. Fokin  
USSR Academy of Sciences  
Leninsky Prospekt 14  
Moscow  
USSR

Dear Academician Fokin,

When I was in London two weeks ago I spoke to Professor Matthew Meselson who is on sabbatical leave from Harvard University for several months. As you may know, we believe that an informal visit to Sverdlovsk by a small group of Pugwash scientists could do much to dispel the adverse criticism of the USSR in the USA with respect to violation of treaties signed by both countries. The anthrax incident in Sverdlovsk has been cited by the U.S. government and other authorities as a major instance where the USSR has violated a treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention of 1972.

In view of the welcome change in USA-USSR relations, and especially the emphasis now being given by both General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan to the need and advisability of adequate verification of arms control agreements, including on-site inspection, we consider that the suggested visit to Sverdlovsk, if implemented, would have a very beneficial effect on U.S. attitudes.

Professor Meselson has proposed that he, an interpreter and either Prof. David Baltimore, MIT, Nobel Laureate, Prof. Joshua Lederburg, President of Rockefeller University and Nobel Laureate, or Prof. Paul Doty of Harvard University visit Sverdlovsk. If necessary, Professor Meselson would be willing to come to Moscow alone if the purpose of this preliminary visit was clearly understood to be to arrange details of a visit to Sverdlovsk. If it is felt that my being a member of this group would be helpful I would do my best to arrange my schedule accordingly. I believe, however, that my presence would be superfluous.

I have written a similar letter to Prof. Kyrill Dioumayev, and am taking advantage of Dr. Vladimir Pavlichenko's return to Moscow from Geneva on March 7 to convey this letter to you. I suggest that you reply directly to Prof. Meselson at Fairchild Biochemistry Building, Harvard University, 7 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138. If you prefer, you can answer through me in Geneva. Please reply as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Martin M. Kaplan  
Secretary-General