



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ СССР

Управление внешних сношений Минздрава СССР

JAN 30 1989

101431, ГСП, Москва К-51,
Рахмановский пер., д. 3

30. XII 88 № _____

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Dear professor Meselson,

Thank you very much for your letter to the Minister of Health from 30.09.88. I'm very sorry for delay with the answer but when your letter came I was involved in several unexpected epidemiological investigations. Two of them you possibly know. Loosing hair in children in Chernovchi due to tallium and earthquake in Armenia.

I was informed about your permanent activity to clear up that infected meat, not on explosion, caused the anthrax outbreak in Sverdlovsk. Your good will helps to receive constructive coveradge of Burgasov's group visit in US press. I'm glad to know that due to Burgasov's lectures which have been arranged by you prominent US experts have been convinced that epidemic resulted from the consumption of infeted black-market meat. I appreciate your effort in improving US-USSR relations.

I tried to arrange a visit of your scientific groups to the USSR. The members of my staff visited Sverdlovsk during last fall to find out the availabilty of sufficient materials. The same was done in Moscow.

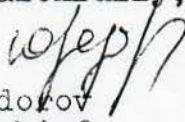
You have already known that during outbreak the appropriate collection of material was not organized. Later prof. Bezenegnikh has collected available documents from local public health authorities. Unfortunately after his death nobody saved his scientific archive and these materials from Sverdlovsk were lost.

It is a pity to say that the result of above mentioned activities is less than we expected. Due to negligence of staff responsible for keeping medical records in Sverdlovsk and unfortunate events with people involved in combating the outbreak we have not now material for real scientific analysis. I regret having to write to you such a thing but you will understand there was no other course open to me that telling the truth.

I only want to say that this year we have several anthrax outbreaks involving some cases. These data can be investigated as well as any current epidemiological material about any infectious disease including plague and cholera.

I look forward to hearing from you about any other proposal for cooperation. Now we have new possibilities.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. J. Fedorov
Deputy chief,
Main Board of Epidemiology
USSR Ministry of Health