

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

7 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138



September 30, 1986

P.N. Burgasov
Deputy Minister of Health
Rachmanovsky, 3
Moscow, USSR

Dear Dr. Burgasov,

By now you will have received via the Soviet Embassy in Washington my letter of September 9 and the accompanying memorandum of our discussions in Moscow.

As we agreed, I have taken steps to organize a small group of US medical scientists who would like to visit you and your colleagues in Moscow for further discussions. I enclose a list of such persons from which three or four could be selected to visit Moscow at a time that would be convenient for you.

A most distinguished and respected individual has agreed to participate and take overall responsibility for arranging and conducting the visit. He is Dr. Lewis Thomas, President Emeritus of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York and University Professor at the State University of New York at Stonybrook. I enclose a copy of his biography.

If you agree, I suggest that we proceed as follows:

1) You would communicate with Dr. Thomas to let him know that a visit to Moscow by him and three or four of his colleagues for two or three days would be welcome. Dr. Thomas would need to know what dates would be convenient for you. It would be good if you could suggest two or three different alternative times.

2) Dr. Thomas would select three or four persons from the enclosed list to accompany him to Moscow. A major factor in his selection would be the availability of the individual at the particular time chosen for the trip.

3) The American side would cover travel and all other expenses except for expenses inside the Soviet Union.

4) An official in the Soviet Embassy in Washington would contact Dr. Thomas in order to facilitate the granting of visas.

5) Because of my heavy work load at Harvard, I myself would not plan to come to Moscow with Dr. Thomas's group unless, of course, you think it would be important for me to participate. In that case, I would make every effort to come.

It is important that the proposed visit should be carried out at the earliest time that is convenient for all concerned.

I can assure you that what we have already accomplished will have a constructive outcome and that this will be much enhanced by the accomplishment of the three additional steps we discussed in Moscow: a return visit by US scientists, a visit by you and your colleagues to the US and the publication of your manuscript in an English language journal.

I am arranging invitations for you and your colleagues to visit the US to give scientific lectures and consultations. Can you let me know what times from February onward would be convenient for you? Also, I need to know which specific individuals should be included in the invitation.

Finally, the manuscript by you and Professors Bezdenejnich and Nikiforov has now been translated into English. I will return it to you within the next three weeks with editorial comments for your consideration and approval.

With best wishes and personal regards,

Sincerely,

Matthew Meselson

Matthew Meselson
Professor of Biochemistry
and Molecular Biology

Enclosures:

- Biography of Dr. Lewis Thomas
- List of Medical Scientists