

March 31, 1971

Dear Martin:

I have just returned from Washington where the Foreign Relations Committee has decided to delay the Geneva Protocol until further consideration of the herbicide and riot gas understandings has occurred within the Administration. The State Department has been arguing privately with senators that it is better to go ahead and ratify the Protocol with the current understandings than to delay. One of the reasons they give is that other countries, including Sweden and other sponsors of the 21-power 1969 UNGA resolution would rather the U. S. ratify now than later, even if delay would result in removal of the controversial understandings.

Perhaps Sweden and other countries have indeed privately expressed such views to American diplomats. However, if they have not, a rather dangerous deception is being perpetrated in Washington. If you have any means of discreetly learning the attitude of Ambassador Myrdal, I would appreciate knowing it. If you should learn that the views attributed to Sweden are, in fact, not those which are actually held, I would encourage you, again discreetly, to let Myrdal know that her government and she personally are being misrepresented. Possibly some remark on her part at Geneva could put the record straight if there is any misunderstanding.

I believe there is a fair chance of U. S. ratification without ^{exemptions} ~~excep~~ for tear gas and herbicides.

Love to Lenna and the boys,
as ever