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Personal and Confidential

Mr. Matthew Meselson
Harvard University Biological Laboratories
16 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge 38, Mass.

Dear Matt,

... Thanks very much for your letter of March 31st enclosing material
... on CBW. I am myself enclosing herewith a copy of a tabulation of points
... made by yourself and myself regarding tear gas which I have given to a
... few interested persons. I also enclose herewith for your information
... a copy of the draft convention on banning the production etc., of
... biological weapons and toxins put forward by the Soviet Union and its
... allies. The Eastern countries have thus come over to the point of
... view urged by the US and the UK of a BW convention as a first step
... on the grounds that the West simply refuse to agree now to ban
... chemical weapons and that a partial agreement was better than none
... at all. I also enclose herewith a copy of an editorial from last
... week's Times of London.

As regards the specific question you asked in your second paragraph, the information you have heard from officials in Washington appears to be the exact opposite of the facts. Mrs. Myrdal strongly holds the view herself that it would be better for the US to delay ratification of the Geneva Protocol until the "understandings" or reservations concerning tear gas and herbicides are abandoned rather than to ratify the Protocol subject to these "understandings" or reservations. In addition, I am informed that she stated these views yesterday at a group meeting of the 12 non-aligned members of the CCD. Not one of them spoke up in opposition to these views while several of them mentioned that it was a "positive" act for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to delay ratification of the Protocol.

Apart from the non-aligned, there are a number of other delegations which apparently hold the same view as Mrs. Myrdal. One of the senior officials of the Soviet delegation here expressed his views to me sometime ago in an identical manner, which means that all the Eastern European members think that way. In addition, several of the Western allies also hold similar views.

On the very day you gave your evidence to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and there were some reports that the Committee might not report out the Protocol for sometime, members of both the American and British delegations told me that they felt the result would be to delay or make less likely the Soviet Union's accepting a convention limited to BW only, since they felt that ratification of the Protocol by the US might provide the basis for the Soviet Union retreating from its long-held position for a simultaneous ban on CBW in one convention. I told both the American and British delegation people that I just do not believe that the Soviet attitude on a single convention or several conventions hinged in any way on ratification by the Senate of the Protocol. As it turned out, the following Monday, 29 March, the Soviet Union gave us their new draft Protocol restricted to BW alone.

While the British and Americans are of course elated by this development, they are somewhat concerned by the indirect or implied incorporation of General Assembly resolution 2603 A interpreting the scope of the Geneva Protocol. This morning the British representative gave public expression to this concern. I enclose herewith also a copy of the press release of his statement.

...
A number of the non-aligned countries (led by Mexico, Sweden and *Yugoslavia* ~~India~~) and even some of the Western allies (such as Japan) are quite disappointed and even irritated by the Soviet concession to the Americans in dropping the demand for a joint simultaneous ban in a single convention of all CBW. These delegations, who had supported the original approach, feel that they have had the rug pulled out from under their feet.

You seem to be making great headway in your campaign. I keep being continually impressed by what a few dedicated people can achieve!

With best wishes and warm regards.

Yours,

Bill

P.S. It would do no harm if you were to send some of your material to Ambassador Alfonso Garcia Robles who is the leader of the Mexican delegation here and who has just returned to New York City where he can be reached care of the Mexican Permanent Mission to the United Nations and also to Mr. Bozinovic and Ambassador Tanaka here. In case you do not have their current addresses, I enclose herewith a delegation list.

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