

PERSONAL

7 April 1971

Dear Matt,

I received your letter of 31 March yesterday and this morning I saw Alva Myrdal. I told her I had received a letter from you concerning the possible mis-information making the rounds in Washington that Sweden and other sponsors of the 1969 Resolution in the General Assembly would prefer to have the United States ratify the Geneva Protocol now, including the reservations on herbicides and tear gases, rather than having the question delayed with a possible elimination of these reservations.

She answered point-blank that the Swedish position was to prefer a delay in ratification than to have ratification with the reservations, and that this presumably reflected the attitude of the co-sponsors. She told me that she had had a private luncheon with Ambassador Leonard in Washington in the late Fall of 1969 during which he had raised the same question, and that she had replied very clearly along the lines given above. I then suggested that it might be useful to have this misunderstanding cleared up by some sort of statement during the current disarmament discussions. She said that she did not know whether this would be possible (she is leaving for Sweden this afternoon), but that she would keep the matter in mind. She did point out that only last week members of the Swedish Parliament had raised the question of the Geneva Protocol, and especially the use of herbicides and tear gases, and she had at that time stated her position on the question. She will look through the proceedings of the Parliamentary session and will send you relevant excerpts which you may wish to use. She gave me full freedom to transmit to you the gist of our talk, leaving to your well-known discretion how to use it.

Many thanks for the articles you sent which reflect the very great effectiveness of your work in Washington. I have been following with interest the newspaper accounts.

I shall attend a meeting in Rensselaerville, New York, from 21-23 May and am tentatively planning to return to Geneva, via a couple of days in Copenhagen, from Boston on the evening of Monday, 24 May. I hope I can arrange to visit you and Sarah, and to meet Zoe, either during the evening of Sunday, 23 May or sometime during the following day before leaving for Copenhagen. Would you please let me know whether you plan to be in Lexington-Cambridge during that time.

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Professor M. S. Meselson
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Lexie wrote that she enjoyed very much seeing Sarah and Zoe in Washington. Peter went off to Greece today as part of his school holiday, and Jeff is in Paris slaking his thirst for history by doing the town with a friend. Wayland Young has been with us for the past few days helping me on problems of the environment. He sends his best regards.

For your private information, I have been approached by the Myrdals to determine whether I would be interested in the Directorship of SIPRI because Robert Neild takes on his Chair at Cambridge in September. I have regretfully declined because I am too committed here at WHO for the next couple of years. I am in fact returning to Wistar in July for a six-months' leave of absence to do some laboratory work and will return to Geneva by Christmas.

Love to all of you.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R. Neild', written in a cursive style.