

April 13, 1971  
The Rt. Hon. Philip Noel-Baker  
16 South Eaton Place  
London, S.W.1  
England

Dear Philip:

Sarah and I were very concerned to learn last week that you had been and may still be in the hospital with a serious fracture. But a copy of your letter to Mrs. Jane Sharp arrived yesterday to assure us that you are at least still in good spirits. I don't know if the enclosed will raise or lower your spirits. The situation on the Protocol now seems to be one of protracted review. Perhaps it came as something of a surprise in parts of the executive branch that the Committee on Foreign Relations should be unwilling to accept the administration's special "understandings" on riot gas and herbicides. What is needed now, I think, is some new vehicle to bring the matter to the President's serious attention. It would certainly help if HMG were to throw out the silly CS decision of the previous cabinet.

When your schedule allows you without much inconvenience to do so, I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of the letters you have received from various governments explaining the reasons for their abstention at the General Assembly in December 1969. I have

heard, for example, that the Danes say they would prefer a broad interpretation of the Geneva Protocol. Authoritative information on this point would be most usefull

Sarah sends her fond regards and we both hope that you are up and about again by now. There is a chance we may be able to visit England in September and if so would hope to find you there.

With esteem and affection.

As ever,