

May 11, 1971

The Hon. Dr. Jorge Castaneda
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mexico to
the United Nations Office at Geneva
13 Avenue de Bude, Geneva
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Castaneda:

Having seen a newspaper report of your May 4 statement before the CCD regarding the current negotiations on chemical and biological disarmament, I take the liberty of asking if you would supply me with a copy of the text of your statement as well as any other available statements you may have made on this subject.

I enclose for your possible interest copies of statements on the Geneva Protocol recently presented to the United States Foreign Relations Committee by Mr. McGeorge Bundy and by me. As you are no doubt aware, U. S. ratification of the Geneva Protocol has run into difficulty in the Senate because of opposition to any special exemptions for riot gas and chemical herbicides. The entire issue is again under review by the White House. A point of view which is gaining increasing support is that expressed in the enclosed editorial from the Washington Post. Of course, nothing that has happened provides the basis for great optimism but it would seem that there is at least a reasonable hope that the U. S. will be able to ratify the Protocol without special exemptions.

I hope the enclosed papers will be helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson
Professor of Biology

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