

May 26, 1971

Mr. William D. Eberle
President
American Standard, Inc.
40 West 40th Street
New York, New York 10018

Dear Bill:

The enclosed editorial from the Monitor describes the situation with respect to the Geneva Protocol: it is languishing in the Senate while the Administration considers whether or not to extend our understanding of the treaty to include herbicides and riot gas. My information from Washington is that the pros and cons are about evenly balanced and that the scales would be tipped if any important new considerations or perspectives were brought in.

I remember that, at Runnymede, you felt that the President has only to gain and nothing to lose by finding some way to bring the United States interpretation of the Protocol into conformity with that of the majority of other nations. I certainly agree with this and consider that this step is essential to the culmination of the President's laudable record of initiatives concerning chemical and biological weapons. Conversely, if the Administration cannot find a way to change its position on riot gas and herbicides, I do not think the Protocol can pass the Senate and the various issues surrounding this controversy will remain flies in the ointment preventing the President from getting clear credit for what he has done in this field.'

All of this brings me to ask if you think that you can do anything to generate some interest in this subject in the more political recesses of the Administration? Certainly the President's chemical and biological weapons policy would be a great political asset if brought to culmination ^{by} ratification of the Protocol.

I shall telephone to get your opinions and advice after a few days when this has had time to reach you.

With warm regards.

Sincerely yours,

MM:mcm
Enclosure

Matthew Meselson