

Noel Baker

JUN 1 1971

16, SOUTH EATON PLACE,
LONDON S.W.1

27th May, 1971.

My dear Matthew,

I hope Mrs. Curwen will be able to send you copies of our letter of enquiry to UN delegates about CS Gas and of some, at least, of their answers. As I remember (but perhaps I am wrong) their answers were really of no value at all - written by junior clerks in the permanent UN delegations without reference home and only repeating the invalid "reasons" which led their delegates to vote in the General Assembly as they did. Our letter was therefore not a very valuable exercise; but possibly our letter itself may be of some minimal use to you. It would indeed be good if you could swing the US Government to give up its unhappy stand.

Your efforts as consultant to the ACDA and in the Senate, and your admirable article in the Christian Science Monitor (an honest if not always right-minded journal) should help President Nixon to take the right decision. You have already won a big victory in the fact that General Abrahams has called off the use of herbicides and defoliants in Vietnam. Your last paragraph shows the vast importance, not only of getting rid of existing stocks of biological weapons, but of halting all BW research.

If this can be done as a partial measure by the Treaty which Britain proposed and Russia and the US seem now to favour, of course, I should warmly applaud. If it happens, I think it will in part be due to the instinctive fear of the Generals that BW in practice might decimate their own forces as well as the enemy's. I am really much more afraid of the use in war of nerve gases. I do not believe the stocks of these will be abolished unless there is a treaty of general disarmament. I try here to use both the fact that large stocks of nerve gas exist, and that biological weapons were developed to the point where they could be used, to demonstrate the total barbarism of our present day militarists. I think it now vastly important that "militarism" should be made a dirty word and that all who have supported the development of armaments since 1945 should be recognised as the enemies of the human race.

In this regard, McGeorge Bundy has a lot of ground to make up. I am glad he gave good evidence to the Senate but I do not forget that he was the adviser (so Adlai Stevenson told me) who persuaded Kennedy to do the Bay of Pigs, who advised Johnson to expand the Vietnam War in 1965, and who urged the increase of the US military budget in 1961, '62 and '63, which smashed the hopes of a disarmament agreement then and which drove Khrushchev from power in 1964.

If McGeorge Bundy would now give \$10 million of the Ford Foundation's resources for a world campaign for general disarmament

(\$50 million would be still better) he would not only be fulfilling the purposes, which Henry Ford had in mind when he set up the Foundation, but he would do something to placate St. Peter when he arrives at the Pearly Gates. Can you persuade him?

With thanks again, & all good wishes,

Yours ever,

Philip N.B.

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