

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

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July 27, 1971

JUL 29 1971

Professor Matthew S. Meselson
Biology Laboratories
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Mr. Meselson:

On October 7, 1971, the American Society of International Law will convene a one-day meeting in Washington on "Applying the International Law of War and Individual Responsibility in the Indo-China Conflict." On behalf of the officers of the Society, I wish to invite you to participate in the private and public sessions of the October 7 meeting and to request that you prepare a paper to be presented during the private session on "The Impact of New Weapons and Technology." Details about the meeting and the session for which your paper would be prepared are contained in the enclosed Draft Agenda.

The purpose of this meeting will be to examine, at a high level of professional competence and objectivity, the application of the laws of war, including those rules relating to individual responsibility, in respect of the tactics and weapons utilized by combatants in the Indo-China conflict. We will also want to explore implications of the Indo-China experience for future action, by way of revision of the laws of war, alteration of patterns of military conduct or otherwise. As the enclosed agenda indicates, the morning and afternoon sessions will be private, in order to encourage a full and frank discussion among about twenty-five experts on the status of the tactics, weapons, and technology used in the Indo-China conflict under the laws of war. The evening session will be a public forum to consider whether the formulation or implementation of such tactics, or the use,

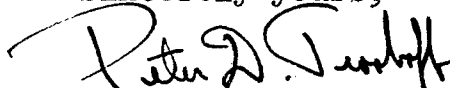
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or direction of the use of, such weapons constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity as those offenses are defined under international law.

Because of the continuing public concern about the conduct of organized military forces and individuals in the Indo-China conflict, the Society plans to publish the papers and comments presented at this meeting as revised on the basis of discussion at the meeting. In order to assure a proper balance in the papers, we are inviting people with varied perspectives to prepare papers and comments for each session. We are asking authors of papers to provide an advanced draft by September 15, 1971, so that commentators will have ample opportunity to study these papers before the meeting and prepare a draft of their written comments on the draft papers. Authors of the papers and comments will be requested to submit revised versions one month after the meeting in order to permit early publication.

In view of your interest in the subject of the October meeting and your expertise concerning some of the technology used in the Indo-China conflict, we are certain that your participation in the meeting and your preparation of a paper for the second private session would constitute an important contribution toward the professional and public understanding of the troubling issues to be considered on October 7. Because we would like to confirm the participants in the meeting as soon as possible, I would appreciate your replying to this invitation by calling me at my office in Washington, D.C. (Area Code 202, 293-3300). I look forward to hearing from you in the near future and respectfully urge you to accept this invitation.

Sincerely yours,



Peter D. Trooboff
Chairman, Meeting on the
International Law of War and
Individual Responsibility

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Enclosure