

New York, November 24, 1971.

Encls.

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Dear Matthew Meselson

Enclosed please find my speech of yesterday at the United Nations. I take the liberty of sending you three copies, in case you should want to share them with some of your friends in Washington.

In regard to Japan it seems that some kind of statement was made in the Diet by a government spokesman to the effect that riot control gases and herbicides were not considered to be included in the Geneva Protocol as a "positive rule of law". However, according to one of our Japanese colleagues here in New York, at the same time it was indicated that the Government of Japan would be sympathetic to the formal inclusion of such gases in the prohibition. Whether there was already a "customary rule of law" against using such gases for warfare purposes was not discussed.

I am going to ask our Embassy in Tokyo to look further into this matter.

With my very best regards.

*Yours
Alva M.*

Alva Myrdal

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