

30 November 1971

Mr. Richard Moose
Staff Consultant
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Room 4225
New Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dick,

Here is a statement Ambassador Alva Myrdal made in the U.N. First Committee last week. In it she expresses the hope of her delegation that "... the US Government will soon see its way to a ratification of the 1925 Protocol and interpret it as the vast majority of states do, that is as covering tear gas and herbicides." (See page 7, paragraph 2.) In the next paragraph Ambassador Myrdal states that "... my government categorically rejects any unilateral attempts to curtail obligations which for 45 years have been considered mutually binding on all parties in an equal, non-discriminatory way." I think this may turn out to be a very important sentence. The phrase, "my government categorically rejects," raises the question of whether Sweden would "reject" the United States as a party to the Protocol, in case the Administration's current understanding is retained. The last sentence of paragraph 3 only strengthens the impression.

With warm regards,

as ever,

Matthew Meselson

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