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Dr. Matthew S. Meselson
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Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Dear Matt,

As you know, Senator Muskie is Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Arms Control, International Law and Organization of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and has long recognized the importance of arms control to our national security. In order that he may have the best possible personal advice on arms control issues, he has asked me to serve as a coordinator for procuring the informal views of a group of experts in the field. I am hoping that you will be willing to participate in this activity as we feel that your experience would be of inestimable value in this connection.

It is not planned that the group have any formal meetings but that instead each individual's views will be solicited on key issues. At some point, however, we may try to arrange a meeting with the Senator. Each individual's views will, of course, be held private for the personal benefit of the Senator, and this activity in no way commits anyone to his public support. The Senator would also welcome any suggestions which the individuals would wish to offer in any area related to arms control and national security. To provide background, we would attempt to keep you informed of the Senator's policies in this area by supplying copies of statements that he makes or other actions taken related to arms control.

As a first item, I would like to suggest that we prepare a statement which Senator Muskie might make on the Geneva Protocol and the related fields of herbicides and riot control agents. As you know, he had planned to make a very good statement in this connection last Christmas, but events kept running ahead of the statement. Unfortunately, events seem to be moving much more slowly this year. I am enclosing a rough first draft on which I would appreciate comments and many changes.

I am enclosing a copy of the Staff Report on the Prospects for a Comprehensive Test Ban of the Subcommittee on Arms Control, International Law and Organization. We are also forwarding the transcript of the hearings held in June and July 1971 whenever additional copies are available. We should appreciate any

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comments you might have on the Report and suggestions for what subsequent actions the Senator should take on all these subjects. In this connection, I am enclosing for your comments a draft statement the Senator might make when the SALT talks recess before Christmas.

With best regards,

Pete.

Herbert Scoville, Jr.

HS:rab
Enclosures