

Robinson  
Geneva, 21 April 1972.

MAR 23 1973

Dear Matt,

A note written in great haste (I am attending a rather hectic ICRC conference on behalf of Vtro). Sorry about my hand writing.

I was in the London Foreign Office a week ago, where I spoke with the man concerned with CW disarmament questions. I delivered your warning that some sort of enquiry was likely to be made shortly from Washington about the current state of British policy on the CS matter. I was asked to urge you to do what you could to discourage such an enquiry. It was explained to me that whereas the Foreign Office was anxious to get the 1970 decision reversed, they anticipated fierce, and almost certainly successful, opposition from the Ministry of Defence, should the matter come up for ~~review~~ formal discussion at a Governmental level.

The MOD is apparently practically paranoid about all matters to do with Northern Ireland; the Foreign Office has explained to them several times, but to no avail, that the Geneva Protocol has no bearing on their use of CS there (or, for that matter, of CR). Bondi, in his capacity as Defence Science Adviser, is likely to side with MOD, should an American enquiry precipitate a re-examination of the CS policy review; and even if he sides against MOD, his influence is unlikely to prevail. The Foreign Office <sup>are</sup> apparently confident that reason will eventually succeed; they feel that time is on their side, but that for the ~~present~~ next few months, sleeping dogs should be left well alone.

Yours ever,

Julian.