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THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES
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21 July 1972

Mr. James S. Finan
35 Glenburnie Drive
Guelph, Ontario
CANADA

Dear Mr. Finan,

Thank you for your letter of 13 July. I have a rather large file of materials on CBW arranged chronologically. You would be welcome to look through it if you come here. However, I do not recall any realistic cost estimates for the production of biological warfare agents or for the acquisition of an offensive biological warfare capability. You could reach a very approximate estimate from the annual budgets of Pine Bluff Arsenal averaged over the 1960s. This would include costs of pilot scale development and production of militarily significant amounts of several agents. It would also include the cost of storage and a certain amount of weapon filling. Although it would leave out most of the initial microbiological research costs, the testing costs, and the costs of delivery vehicles, the Pine Bluff budget included some items in no way related to biological warfare. Thus, in a very crude way the estimate arrived at should have some meaning.

Of course, the Pine Bluff operation was quite sophisticated from the point of view of safety precautions, control mechanisms, and ~~production standardization~~ and was also diversified among several biological agents. A country willing to cut corners and concentrate on a single agent would obviously have to spend less. I do not remember the annual Pine Bluff budget myself, but I know that it has been published a number of times in the Congressional Record and elsewhere.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson

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