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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
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~~ALBERT WOHLSTETTER~~
UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

Professor Matthew Meselson
Harvard University
The Biological Laboratories
16 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Professor Meselson:

It was very kind of you to respond so promptly to my request for data on possible terrorist use of chemical or biological weapons. I have been on an extended trip to the Far East and came back to find your letter of May 20. While in Los Angeles, I did check out the Rand reference, but found it not very useful.

Thank you also for sending on your statement of 1971, which seems very sound to me. Since looking at the subject a bit, I have decided the less said about this type of warfare, the better. It appears to be far easier to manage than any of the home made nuclear bombs that are currently getting such publicity in the press. While in Japan I have talked to a number of physicists who, when pressed, said that while they had great admiration for Theodore Taylor's competence in theoretical physics, they wouldn't let him touch their car engines. My search through the guerilla literature of the Middle East also suggests so far that Taylor has generated whatever interest in this subject guerillas have shown up to now. Taylor seems as much a part of the problem as its solution. Such publicity creates some of the payoffs for terror and is a different matter from the tradeoff of information or know-how versus extra care in safeguards that Taylor and others recognize. I am of course for extra care.

I'm sorry I missed your Chicago celebration, and hope we'll have a chance to meet sometime soon.

Sincerely,



Roberta Wohlstetter

RW:f