



American Academy of Arts and Sciences

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21 October 1976

Maj. Gen. E. C. Meyer
Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff
for Operations and Plans
Department of the Army
Pentagon, 3E 636
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear General Meyer,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I wish to express our pleasure at learning that you plan to attend the Conference on Policies for Chemical Weapons and Chemical Arms Control to be held at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Boston on January 21-22, 1977.

Following our recent telephone conversation, I am writing to confirm our understanding that you will contribute a paper for distribution to the participants in advance of the Conference. We would particularly value a paper that provides an analytical framework for considering the major U.S. policy options for lethal and incapacitating chemical weapons, especially in the context of European defense. The actual choice of topics and treatment will of course rest with you. However, you may wish to consider some or all of the following questions:

- . In overall defense planning for Europe, what purposes are served by the U.S. chemical retaliatory capability?
- . To what extent would these purposes be served by other already existing or attainable military means if no chemical retaliatory capability were available to U.S. forces?
- . What estimates can be made regarding Soviet chemical warfare capability and doctrine?
- . What are the trade-offs for the U.S. in retiring its retaliatory chemical capability in terms of alternative utilization of resources, simplified command and control, arms control, and other factors?

The paper should be long enough to allow a clear presentation of the subject to readers generally familiar with defense and arms control matters but knowing little about chemical weapons and U.S. policy regarding chemical warfare. Approximately ten thousand words would not be too long, but you should be the judge. We hope to receive a copy by December 15. This would allow time for preliminary review and possible limited revision and for duplication and distribution before the Conference. The American Academy staff will retype the manuscript if necessary and distribute it to participants. The Conference is prepared to reimburse you for necessary secretarial costs and to provide an honorarium of \$500.

For your information I enclose a list of acceptances received to date from other participants, including those who have also agreed to provide a paper.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson

Matthew Meselson

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