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January 31, 1977

Professor Matthew Meselson
Harvard University
16 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Matt:

I appreciate your invitation to attend the seminar on chemical weapons. I enjoyed the two days, but wish that I might have had more of substance to add to the discussions. I believe the conference only introduced a number of serious issues that need further exploration.

Of particular trouble to me was the fact the U.S. entered strategic arms negotiations with the Soviets without any statement of the possible objectives we might have in trying to get to some agreements. I think because of this we are now having difficulties in both SALT 2 and MBFR. I also sensed that our approach to chemical arms control is starting in the same direction. It may only be my short sightedness, but unless I have specific objectives (e.g., better security in western Europe against a surprise attack, greater security in the mid-East, limits on terrorism, etc. all spelled out in some particular detail), I find no way of telling whether any potential agreement with all its inherent risks (e.g., loop holes, covert violation, new technology, etc.) has been a net gain or a net loss. Perhaps that is too pedantic an approach, but if my sense of history is correct, something like it would have given clear warning of the inherent difficulties in the Washington Naval Treaties of 1921.

If you have some interest in exploring these topics further,

Professor Matthew Meselson

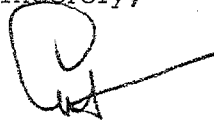
January 31, 1977

Page 2

I would be delighted to accept your invitation to meet for lunch some day at Harvard. I will give your office a call later this week to see if we might find a time.

Again, my thanks and sincere best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. C. Herrington', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Arthur C. Herrington