

10201 Grosvenor Rd # 715

Rockville, Md 20852

December 7, 1978

Dear Professor Meselson,

It was a pleasure to learn in your letter of November 28 that you wish to secure a copy of "Effectiveness of Toxic chemicals in the Italo-Ethiopian War" (ORO SP-87). The pleasure was enhanced by the fact that the request came from Harvard since I am an old (and retired) Radcliffe PhD in History.

The Operations Research Office has gone through several sea-changes during the years so I've been canvassing the Old Boy/Girl network in the Washington area, with the following results.

Some years ago, copies of the ORO-Research Analysis Corporation documents were turned over to the Department of the Army Library in the Pentagon (zip. 20301) where they are preserved on microfilm. Two originals of each are also on file at the General Research Corporation, Westgate Park, McLean, Va, 22101, under the control of the Security Officer, Mr. Gene Suto. He tells me that this particular document has not been declassified but is eligible for consideration of declassification in 1979.

A speedier lead has opened up, however. Our librarian at the time of the turnover of the documents to the Army Library, Mary Frances Barrett, has kindly offered to secure for you declassification of the document early in January and a copy made from the microfilm. She is willing to put the charge on her account with the Army Library on the assumption that you will promptly repay her. She would, however, like very much to discuss with you the mode of reproduction you would prefer since there are some problems in getting a legible imprint from the microfilm. Her office phone is (703)-821-4537 and her home phone is (703)-893-6763. If you have clear evidence that the document has actually been declassified that would simplify and speed up her ability to serve you. I suspect that declassification of an individual copy is not generally made known to other holders of a document.

You might also be interested in a somewhat similar study I did in 1959: ORO SP-88, "Effectiveness of toxic chemicals in WWI." This was not classified. Mr. Suto says, however, that, since it is evidence of the involvement of H. Army and ORO in the subject of chemical warfare, it is not freely releasable but might be secured by invoking the Freedom of

information Act. If you are interested, I suggest that you discuss this also with Miss Barrett. I have alerted her to the possibility.

I know well how infuriating such red-tape is and I hope this approach will lead through it. Just in case, you might send me the phone number where you can most easily be reached. Mine is (301) 493-9163. Don't hesitate to call me if I can do anything further.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy K Clark