

2, Lavell Street,
Albion Road,
London N16.

April 11th, 1979.

Dear Professor Meselson,

I believe Professor Frucht mentioned to you in Pasadena that he was collaborating with Clive Freeman and myself on a book depicting his experiences in East Germany. We've done extensive research on our subject and interviewed everyone even remotely concerned with the case in Europe, including the East-West lawyers handling the case, the couriers, and the 'professional' spies imprisoned with him in Bautzen. What we're lacking, however, is a professional assessment of how feasible or otherwise the aspects of his story relating to chemical warfare are in the view of a c w specialist who was linked to the Administration during the 1960s. We've talked to Mr Julian Perry-Robinson and he has been of great assistance. What we would like to ask you is whether you would be prepared to give us your view - no matter how critical - as a balance to some of the claims being made by Professor Frucht.

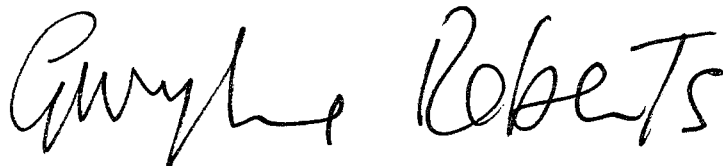
We've experienced a little difficulty in uncovering information on postwar developments in the use of cw agents in sub-zero temperatures. This, as you know, is a central element of Prof. Frucht's story, as he says the East Germans changed the molecular structure of a cw agent, developed by Tammelin, so that it was effective in polar temperatures. Have you heard of such a compound? Was there a major problem in the 1960s about using cw agents in sub-zero temperatures? We would be very grateful if you could give us any background in this area. I know of the problems encountered by the German Army during World War Two in severe cold from Hermann Ochsner's account, in which he says:...." a long period of extreme cold renders gas attack operations of any kind extremely difficult." But I would have expected significant advances by the mid-sixties in this sector. Was this the case?

Professor Frucht claims that the Soviets and East Germans developed gas masks during the early 1960s to cope with Arctic conditions. In the West, this seems to have been a standard military requirement for a long-time. We'd like to find out more about the development of service-issue respirators in relation to cold-weather usage.

One other area which interests us is, of course, the 'Alaskan plan'. I gather you referred to it as "sounding like a crazy story". It's quite likely that the facts have been distorted, but we would like to check it out as far as possible. Mr Perry-Robinson pointed out that the "Alaskan seenario" was not new. In his recollection, it was brought up during a Congressional Hearing in the late 1950s as part of a possible Soviet strike plan. We've been unable to find the precise reference on this, but does this strike a chord with you? Professor Frucht claims that three months before his arrest the General who told him about the Alaskan plan also revealed that NATO had adjusted its northern defences to cope with this 'cold weather' chemical agent. Would you know anyone who could help us on this?

There is, of course, the other problem of just how important the BMEW system was, and the Administration view of intelligence gathering in the CW sector, and its overall reliability. Any help in clearing the mists of ignorance in this area would be very much appreciated. Can you assist us?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gwynne Roberts". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned centrally below the typed name.

(Gwynne Roberts)