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Dr. Matthew Meselson
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Dear Dr. Meselson:

John Marks suggested that I contact you in regard to my research on the use of biological warfare by the United States during the Korean War.

I have been able to identify a series of documents in the files of the Joint Chiefs of Staff now in the possession of the National Archives, dealing with a policy and plan (apparently implemented) entitled, "Cover and Deception Plan in the Biological Warfare Field," for the Korean War period.

My request for the declassification of this plan has been denied, a copy of my appeal letter, recently sent off, is enclosed. My letter outlines the legal and moral reasons for release. If need be, I plan to go to court, this being the case, I will need the support of the legal, academic, scientific and military communities to give expert testimony. Specifically, your work in the development of a ban on Chemical Warfare may be useful in two ways that I can think of now; 1) If the United States is to be taken seriously in respect to its international treaties in regards to Biological Warfare, then it will have to come clean with its actions from the past, because by covering up past activities the United States casts a shadow of deception on what might be done in the future. As a result other nations will not trust the United States and would be reluctant to sign a ban on Chemical Warfare, or worse may sign it but use deception citing the United States as its model. 2) Since my arguments for release are partly based upon the unique nature of BW, in that its effects can be attributed to a seemingly natural cause and therefore not applicable to any other unconventional warfare plan as the JCS might argue, I seek expert testimony that can establish the distinction between BW and Chemical Warfare weapons. Any kind of assistance or advice in these regards would be greatly appreciated.

As you might expect, I have accumulated a great deal of documentation as a by-product of BW research on Chemical Warfare. Let me know your current interest and I will see what I can do.

Sincerely,

Edwin Becker