



THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX  
SCIENCE POLICY RESEARCH UNIT

MANTELL BUILDING FALMER BRIGHTON SUSSEX BN1 9RF U.K.

Dr M S Maselson  
The Biological Laboratories  
Harvard University  
16 Divinity Avenue  
CAMBRIDGE  
Mass 02138

Telephone:  
BRIGHTON (0273) 686758

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Dear Matt,

Thanks for your note of 22 Feb with its attached copy of our SciAmer piece in its composited form. I'm glad, and very impressed, that you managed to stand firm against so many of the editorial quirks.

I think we can be pleased with the article: its structure and language has given a good groundswell to the component descriptions and arguments which carries the piece firmly in the direction we wanted--an achievement which is very much yours: I tend to get distracted by detail. Mind you, it is probably as well that we stopped adjusting the text when we did, as I think we were getting into falling returns. It's a pity, for example, that the pressure of time and space forced out any reference to British policy on CW weapons, and I'm not sure the 'meatgrinding' insertion ended up quite the way we had meant it to. The London Sunday Times--which is probably our best newspaper--is thinking of running a long piece on CW soon; should we give them an advance copy or is that properly left to Scientific American to handle ?

Enclosed is the draft of a piece on the recent allegations which I am keen to finalise and get to its intended audience--mainly British journalists and members of parliament--as soon as possible, hopefully by the end of next week. Any comments, amplifications, &c would be gratefully received.

I have decided, after all, not to write the piece for Nature (for which the original request had come from a news editor there, keen to build up Nature's defence/arms-control coverage, to which my outfit here has already contributed). The reason is perhaps foolishly petty. What do you think ? John Maddox, who has just returned as Editor after a spell as Director of the Nuffield Foundation, had as good as promised me, in his latter capacity, a two-year grant to write up the arms-control research we have been doing here at SPRU over the past several years. At the very last moment the Foundation decided against the grant, thereby leaving me high and dry and unsalaried. I strongly suspect that the reason for this was that our research here was felt to be insufficiently detached from concerns not thought proper for academics, which is a perennial hazard for anyone attempting policy-orientated research within British universities, especially so in the arms-control field where crucial data are hard to come by. But our focus on topicalities and current political alignments &c--which is what I think gives our work practical value, biased though I may be--makes us much in demand by journalists. We usually encourage this even though we end up being grossly exploited, for what good is policy research if its findings don't get into policy-shaping circles--another perennial problem in Britain, with its hermetic modes of government. So here is Maddox in one hat apparently denigrating our work and in another seeking to profit from it. Now that I've written all this down, I see that I see that I really

am being petty and probably maligning Maddox grossly. But the whole thing sticks in my gullet nonetheless, and anyway I should be putting all my efforts into finding a job. I suppose you wouldn't want to write the piece yourself? They want a one-page article (1000-2000 words) on what's been happening in CW for the 'News' section. I don't imagine they'll pay anything. Such an article ought certainly to be written. If you don't, maybe I'll stick to my old allegiance and do one for New Scientist.

What is to be made of the enclosed press cuttings? Are they reporting a move by DoD to reverse the OMB decision against funding binary procurement? Or are they simply reporting Congressional testimony in support of the binary funding that OMB did approve--which I gathered from you was for continued R&D plus planning work on a binary production facility? If any documentation has come your way on this, do please send me a copy. Likewise a copy of Bill Brown's article when it comes out in NYT Magazine.

Mary and I were watching the television a few days ago and were delighted to hear your voice coming from it, as background to some Granada TV World in Action footage on Agent Orange. I'm sorry to say that you were completely unattributed.

As ever,



J P Perry Robinson

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