

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES



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CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

12 March 1980

Mr. Dennis Flanagan
Scientific American
415 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Dennis,

Thank you for the advance copies of the April issue which have arrived over the last few days. The article looks good--with one serious exception which I wish I had caught. In the map/figure on potential civilian casualties there is a confusion regarding population densities because of the inclusion in the text box and in the figure of symbols for settlements of "0-10,000" people. The category makes little sense and the inclusion of only a small sample of the many existing small settlements makes the population density seem much lower than it actually is. I realize that it is too late to make any alterations in the American edition, but would it be possible to change the illustration for the German edition? Even simply eliminating all of the symbols for the 0-10,000 localities and the corresponding category in the text box would be satisfactory.

It has been a pleasure working with you and Joe Wisnovsky during the preparation of this article and I thank you for all the help you have given us.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson

cc: Julian Perry Robinson