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Dear Henry,

The enclosed article by Robinson and me will appear in next month's Scientific American. There is so much misinformation circulating about the subject of chemical weapons that, even without access to classified material, we thought we would make a positive contribution.

I do not see U.S. procurement of additional chemical weapons, binary or not, as an effective counter to Soviet chemicals, given West German unwillingness to integrate chemicals into their forces and given some of the military characteristics of chemical weapons and chemical protective equipment discussed in our paper. On the basis of the bilateral chemical arms control talks last August and before the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, I thought there was reason to be mildly optimistic about chemical arms control. Defense Department members of the chemical working group were similarly encouraged. When U.S.-Soviet relations are on a more even keel again, I hope that chemical arms control will continue to find favor in the two governments.

As you know, molecular biology is going through another peak of exciting developments, although so far ~~the~~ ~~years~~ ~~mainly~~ inexplicable discoveries revealed by powerful new techniques. The new insights and generalizations have yet to come. I still spend most of my working time in research and teaching. A few weeks ago we bought from Harvard the little brick house on Kirkland Place where the Shulmans used to live behind the Semitic Museum and we are expanding it to accommodate our increasingly active daughters, now aged eight and nine.

With warm regards,

as ever,

Matthew Meselson

Encl.