

Kaplan, m

PUGWASH CONFERENCES ON SCIENCE AND WORLD AFFAIRS

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Mr Julian P. Perry Robinson
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Dear Matt and Julian,

I was told by Ted Nemeč of SIPRI that the reason for cancelling the meeting in 1980 was because of the embarrassing situation the GDR might be placed if allegations were raised of use of gas in south-east Asia. The GDR has renewed its invitation for the 8th Workshop, including a visit to a chemical plant, for sometime during the first half of 1981. I will send out a notice about this shortly.

I saw Issraelyan again last Friday (the 25th), and he told me that he had transmitted to Moscow the gist of our talk, with his recommendation for possible action which he vaguely referred to as including "a meeting of scientists", or a detailed description of the incident in Sverdlovsk by the Russian authorities. I told Issraelyan that Paul Doty and I had discussed the matter also with Falin on 13 April, urging the quickest possible action. The possible moves repeated to Issraelyan (and also mentioned to Falin) were bilateral talks under article V, a visit to Sverdlovsk which we knew was difficult to arrange, a meeting of scientists in Moscow (less priority elsewhere), WHO involvement in any of the preceding, and lastly Pugwash auspices.

A few weeks ago in Munich I enquired about any information that might be available on the Sverdlovsk incident. Anton Mayer, head of infectious diseases at the veterinary school, contacted a friend (Seiler) in charge of veterinary affairs of the Ministry of Defence. They apparently have no information additional to what has appeared in the open press.

I will be in the London office on 14 and 15 May, and expect to get to Boston during the week of 26 May. I hope to see both of you.

Yours,

M. M. Kaplan

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(dictated but not seen)