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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 25, 1980

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to invite you to a luncheon I am hosting on Wednesday, July 23, from 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m., at which Dr. Matthew Meselson will discuss chemical weapons and the latest chemical warfare developments.

The use of chemical and biological weapons has received considerable publicity recently. There have been widespread reports of Soviet use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan and in Laos, and a related story about a possible biological weapons production accident in the Soviet Union. In addition, the U.S. and the Soviet Union are engaged in a series of bilateral negotiations in Geneva aimed at bringing about chemical disarmament. Questions about specific verification measures remain a major sticking point in the negotiations.

Congress faces the issue with recurring requests by the U.S. Army for funds to build production facilities for a new generation of poison gas artillery projectiles, called binary munitions.

Dr. Matthew Meselson is one of the leading American experts on chemical weapons and chemical disarmament. He recently testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on the allegations of Soviet use of chemical agents in Afghanistan and Laos.

Dr. Meselson presently serves as a Professor of Natural Sciences at Harvard University, where he has taught since 1960. He has received numerous awards for his work, and has written extensively on this topic. He recently co-authored a major article in Scientific American entitled "Chemical Warfare and Chemical Disarmament."

Please have your staff phone Melinda Koutsoumpas, 224-2353, by Monday, July 21, if you plan to attend.

Sincerely,


David Pryor

DP/mk