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Dear Matt,

I'm now back in my office after vacation and the Pugwash Conf. Thank you for the many things you've sent, not least that declassified Dorothy Clark paper. The final version of that 'Chemical Warfare Capabilities...' paper of mine which you asked for is in SIPRI, Chemical Weapons: Destruction and Conversion (London, 1980), pp9-56. SIPRI should have sent you a copy of this, but in case not I am sending one under separate cover.

Various matters:

1) At Pugwash I was very glad to have from Hiatt and Martin Kaplan an update of your news on the anthrax business. The principal purpose of my paper--a copy of which I sent you the other day--was to open the subject for a discussion that, hopefully, would lead towards a conference commendation of that specialist level meeting "possibly under Pugwash auspices". Enclosed is a copy of the Pugwash Council's version--i.e. the abbreviated one that gets public distribution--of the Conference final document. The rather feeble bit on page 4 reflects much compromise. The full final document--in its report from Working Group 1--has slightly more, including a suggestion of Pugwash assistance in gaining "more medical information". Bernie Feld will have a copy of the retyped final version: I don't yet.

The first Soviet comments on Sverdlovsk came in a special CBW working group, from Reutov. I don't think he knew much about the business anyway, and we had to spend a lot of time persuading him that it should not be dismissed as a propaganda stunt and that clarification really was important. In this we succeeded to the extent of him agreeing that "more medical information would be desirable"; but he preferred to defer further discussion to Working Group 1. When the matter was raised there it was Pavlichenko who took over from Reutov--the Academy giving way, presumably, to the KGB. His objective was to have Pugwash publicly dismiss the stories not merely as unfounded but also as untrue. In this he made much of Zhores Medvedev's New Scientist piece, which Martin had shown to Reutov. When he encountered opposition he became very heated, denouncing the stories as "crude propaganda" etc etc. On no other subject during the Conference, not even Afghanistan, did the Russians get so intemperate in their language. Which being the case there was clearly no hope for an agreed final statement that went very far (it was surprising, in fact, that the final statement went as far as it did). Some people did, nonetheless, continue to push for the meeting idea: Murph Goldberger of CalTech especially.

One quite widely shared view among the participants was that the correct stance of Pugwash towards the allegations should be aloof scepticism: a stance

ridiculing the idea of any state doing anything as absurd as making anthrax weapons in secret: to rush in with offers of assistance in clarifying the allegations would risk lending them credence

2) On CW at Pugwash, we were told of the final and definite decision of the DDR Pugwash not to host the next workshop. The decision has apparently been taken at the highest level of government. Both Leibnitz (overlord of DDR Pugwash) and Lohs were very apologetic about this, genuinely so. However, the Russians went out of their way to say, on several occasions, that they wanted the workshop series to continue, approving of an agenda on which the main item was the circes under which onsite inspection might be called for. They advocated Yugoslavia as the place for the next meeting with, interestingly, Czechoslovakia for the one after that, a suggestion which the Czechs present endorsed.

We did not spend much time on the CW-use allegations. Rightly or wrongly I reckoned it more important to focus efforts on Sverdlovsk. Perhaps we should have done more to advance the idea of an international scientific inquiry. But with that disgraceful State Dept compilation just published, I don't think we would have got anywhere.

3) During two different conversations Leibnitz seemed to be hinting that military factories in the DDR were manufacturing CW agents for shipment to the USSR. But he could have been referring to explosives or some such.

4) Had you heard that, as part of the recent Brezhnev troop withdrawals from the DDR, the bulk of a brigade of Chemical Troops (a Front-level formation) had been withdrawn ?

5) Can you get me a copy of the 'Freedom House' publication referred to in the enclosed Baltimore Sun (12 July 80) clipping ? Presumably it's a translation of the RM piece of 3rd July ? Also, are there any full translations around of the various Posev bits ?

6) At Pugwash was Dr Igor Mann who, from his decades of FAO/WHO/UNEP experience in Kenya and other parts of Africa, knows a great deal about intestinal anthrax. I gather you phoned him ~~back~~ in May. He is willing to turn out his own records, and the various official files to which he has access, for whatever clinical or epidemiological information about the disease he may be asked for, provided the request comes to him on reputable letter heading (the above would do). You have a copy of his letter to Martin of 29 May: is there anything more he might be specifically asked for ? He told me that he was shortly going to give a series of lectures in the USSR where he knows personally a number of the people who would presumably have been involved, at the medical level, in the Sverdlovsk outbreak.

7) I talked with Gottstein (overlord of the FRG Pugwash) about possible West German outlets for our Sci Amer piece. He was genuinely concerned, I think, and has promised to make inquiries. He is a good ally to have. I told him I would be prepared to do any revisions, updatings, etc that might be warranted, in consultation with you.

8) Have you a copy yet of that other DIA manual thing (on offensive capabilities) ?

Meanwhile we are waiting anxiously over here for news of the Congress' final action on binaries.

As ever,

*Philian*

J. D. Brown, Baltimore