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Dear Matt,

On the matter of Soviet masking doctrine, I have a long-standing date next week with someone whose job it is to know such things, and will probe--though without much expectation of getting very far. In the meantime I have been going through my files and have found only one Soviet paper which speaks of masking whenever there is incoming artillery fire, prior to specific gas alarms. A copy is enclosed. It is a CIA (I think) translation of an article from the Soviet General Staff journal Voyennaya Mysl': 1968(6): 67-74, Colonel A Markynov, 'Comprehensive protection of troops from weapons of mass destruction'. You will see, however, that the article advocates pre-alert masking, thus implying that it was not, at the time of writing, current doctrine. And that it may not have become doctrine even ten years later is suggested by the second Soviet paper I enclose: a UK translation of a question-and-answer piece from the Red Army journal Voyenny Vestnik 1978(10):113. This item seems to indicate that there is no army-wide standard operating procedure on gas alerting and masking.

Some recent press cuttings are enclosed. The Washington Post story you mentioned on the phone is, I think, off beam: British interest is waning. Observe the Times lead letter from the Conservative MP.

Also enclosed is a letter from Gottstein about possible German outlets for our Scientific American piece (now much in need of updating). I saw him in Paris last week and he is very willing to help with whatever we decide.

My hopes of being in the USA by the end of this month are being obstructed by teaching commitments, but I may yet get out from under. Planning for a longer stay later in the year is advancing, but is currently much complicated by some political ambitions which Mary is developing. I hear Enid Schoettle is now a vice-president of the Ford Foundation.

As ever,

J P Perry Robinson

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