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AH/AMS.

22 April, 1982.

Professor Matthew Meselson,
Department of Molecular Biology,
University of Harvard,
Massachusetts,
U.S.A.

Dear Professor Meselson

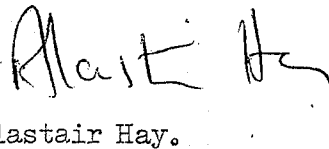
I have just seen a press release from Pravda (enclosed) quoting the Covert Action press release on the interview with Scott Barnes.

The people at Counter-Spy magazine are going to send me a copy of the press release. They tell me that they asked Barnes to get in touch with you. Have you talked to him? Do you think he is telling the truth? And, if so, are you taking any action?

Julian Perry Robinson has probably sent you a copy of our pamphlet on chemical warfare. Have you any comments to make about it?

My book on 2,4,5-T and dioxin called "The Chemical Scythe" will be published by Plenum in a few months time. It is the full story, as well as I can tell it, of the development and use of 2,4,5-T and the problems of contamination with dioxin. I have also covered the problems in industry where accidents involving dioxin have occurred.

Yours sincerely,



Alastair Hay.
Lecturer.

Encl:

Monday, April 12, 1982

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A LIE EXPOSED

Washington, April 10. (TASS.) Not long ago the US State Department published a report on "chemical warfare in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan", which is nothing but a gross anti-Soviet concoction. The report contains bits of "evidence" designed, in the idea of its authors, to prove alleged uses of Soviet-made nerve gas in Laos, Kampuchea and Afghanistan.

Facts cited in the American press show again that the Central Intelligence Agency and other American espionage organs were directly involved in the fabrication of this "evidence".

The magazine Covert Action published an interview with a certain Scott Barnes, a former "semi-military" hired CIA agent. Barnes says that last November he and five more American subversives were transferred from Thailand to Laos. They were told that they were to become convinced that there had been no longer any American POWs in Laotian territory since the US intervention in Indochina. When the group was already in Laos, another order came: they were to find and kill two mysterious Americans who had been sent to that country to cook up false "evidence" on the use of nerve gas but who had failed to fulfil their mission. The subversives could not find the two Americans and one by one secretly returned to the United States.

Barnes says that the operation was sponsored by the CIA with the approval of the American President and the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs-of-Staff. It was aimed at securing that facts about the direct involvement of the American intelligence organs in the publication of "data" on mythical Soviet nerve gas should not surface.

According to Barnes, the CIA men in Bangkok, representatives of the National Security Agency and the army intelligence and a notorious CIA agent, ex-general Wang Pao who had led the activities of Mong terrorist gangs in Laos during the American interven-

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tion in Indochina prepared this subversive group.

The magazine Covert Action is not the first American press organ which Barnes has told his story. According to him, he has already told to the ABC television company and the newspapers Washington Post and Boston Globe everything about his mission in Laos, but they failed to make public his story.

The truthfulness of Barnes's story was re-affirmed by another participant in the subversive group who was contacted by the Covert Action editors. This man confirmed the information about the CIA's order to eliminate the two Americans. For considerations of his personal safety he asked to remain anonymous.

(Pravda, April 11. In full.)