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Dr. Robert Milulak
Room 5499 State
U.S. Arms Control
and Disarmament Agency
Washington, DC 20451

Dear Bob:

Here is a short memo on my meeting
with Pavlichenko and Issraeylan in March.
Please let me know if this serves the
purpose.

Sincerely,

Matthew Meselson

MM/db

enclosure

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MEMORANDUM TO FILES: TALKS WITH SOVIETS IN GENEVA, MARCH 1982

On Sunday, March 14, 1982, Martin Kaplan and I had lunch with Vladimir Pavlichenko at the Mon Repos Hotel in Geneva at the end of the 9th Pugwash workshop on Chemical Warfare. The principal subject of discussion was the possible arrangement of private US-USSR talks regarding chemical/biological weapons compliance issues, including discussions of events in Sverdlovsk, Southeast Asia and Afghanistan. Kaplan, the Pugwash Director-General, and I have spoken with Pavlichenko on numerous occasions over the years at Pugwash meetings. At present, Pavlichenko is attached to the Soviet group at the bilateral Euro-missile talks.

Kaplan and I strongly emphasized our own concern with current CBW compliance issues and the concern of others in the U.S. who have worked for chemical/biological weapons arms-control and disarmament. Pavlichenko said he recognized this concern and its importance. He suggested that compliance issues could be discussed privately during a meeting scheduled this Summer in Moscow involving members of the US and Soviet Academies of science. He stated that having such talks in Moscow would help ensure representation by knowledgeable individuals from the Soviet side.

Pavlichenko said he was concerned about the problem of avoiding the use of such talks as a means of attacking the Soviet Union. I replied that the first session of talks could be limited to discussion of how the privacy of such talks could be ensured. He appeared to regard this as a reasonable procedure. Later that day of perhaps the next morning Pavlichenko told Kaplan by telephone that I should relate the substance of our lunch conversation to Soviet Ambassador Issraelyan with whom I had mentioned having an appointment.

On Monday morning, March 15 I went to the villa of Soviet Ambassador V.L. Issraelyan. I have had discussions with him on two previous occasions, first in Geneva and then in New York. I made the appointment for this meeting. The main subjects of discussion were the possibility of private talks on compliance issues and the prospects for bilateral discussions of chemical disarmament.

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Issraelyan stated that the resumption of private bilateral talks on chemical disarmament could be combined with discussions of compliance issues. He stated that appropriate experts knowledgeable about compliance issues could be brought from the Soviet Union. He said that he would report to his ministry the suggestion for such talks among Academy representatives in Moscow but said that in his opinion it would be better to conduct compliance discussions in Geneva. One reason for this, he said, was that US scientists were not very close to the Administration.

Issraelyan said that bilateral US-USSR talks need not be conducted on a formal basis, instead each session could be scheduled ad hoc. He said that he understood that the Administration might not want simply to continue in a format established by the Carter Administration. He went on to say that private discussions had already occurred regarding control of radiological weapons. He said that following the tough speech of Eugene Rostow at the C D Rostow, Ambassador Fields and he had met in this room and that Mr. Rostow had asked "Victor, aren't you going to congratulate me on my speech?" Issraelyan said that in response he expressed doubt as to whether he would even be permitted to speak privately with Ambassador Fields. To this he said Mr. Rostow responded that it was most important to maintain contact and thereupon instructed Ambassador Fields to do so.

In recounting the above, Issraeylan repeated that discussions of chemical weapons control could be held in the same manner as the radiological talks and that discussions of compliance issues could be held at the same time.

Matthew S. Meselson