

MM Spector

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



7 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

July 30, 1982

Mr. Michael Spector  
1035 New York Times Building  
229 West 43rd Street  
New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr. Spector:

Following our recent telephone conversation, I am enclosing a copy of the recent Soviet proposal for a chemical disarmament treaty. By its acceptance of "systematic international on-site inspection (page 8) it agrees to an important principle insisted upon by the U.S. during the bilateral chemical warfare talks conducted during the Ford and Carter administrations but discontinued by President Regan. In her address to the UN Disarmament Session on July 23, Prime Minister Thatcher mentions this improvement in the Soviet position (page 7).

While seeking to manufacture a new generation of chemical weapons the Regan administration has not yet developed a chemical arms control position and has not seen fit to resume bilateral negotiations with the Soviets on this subject. The new Soviet proposal is justification for cautious optimism if the negotiated position of the U.S. has not hardened greatly in comparison with the position of the last administration. It occurs to me that you and Mr. Wicker might want to look into these matters. So far as I have noticed, there has been almost no reporting or editorial comment about the state of chemical arms control negotiations and in particular, about the need to probe the new Soviet proposal. In this regard, you might also find it useful to read the transcript of the Hearings of the Subcommittee on International Security and Scientific Affairs of the House Committee for Foreign Affairs entitled "Foreign Policy and Arms Control Implication of Chemical Warfare" held on July 13, 1982.

Sincerely,

Matthew Meselson  
Professor of Biochemistry  
and Molecular Biology

MM/db  
Enclosures