

Simmons
bcc: Matt Messelson

Hampshire College

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 20, 1983

Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner
President
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Jerry,

I've just been talking to Matt Messelson, which is one of the most stimulating things one can ever do. As you know, Matt is now hot on the trail of yellow rain and thinks he has some answers. But he needs some help. More important, he has a marvelous track record of persistently pursuing important questions of science and public policy with the utmost care. I'm wondering if he's ever been nominated for a MacArthur "genius grant" and how one might go about putting his name in the system in the strongest possible manner. He seems to me light years better than most of the people who have been so honored and would clearly use the time in a marvelous way. If you do think it is a good idea, I would love to do whatever I can to help, but since I am not part of a system I'm not sure what that is. You are probably better placed to know how to go about trying to make this happen.

Sincerely,



Adele Simmons

AS/lw