

# NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

COMMISSION ON PHYSICAL SCIENCES, MATHEMATICS, AND RESOURCES

2101 Constitution Avenue Washington, D. C. 20418

Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology

April 17, 1984

Dr. Matthew S. Meselson  
Cabot Professor of the Natural Sciences  
Harvard University  
Fairchild Biochemistry Building  
7 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Dr. Meselson:

As a Staff Officer for the Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology (BCST) of the National Research Council, I am writing to solicit your help in identifying candidates for membership of a new NRC Committee on Defensive Aspects of Chemical and Biological Warfare.

Last fall, the Chemical Research and Development Center of the U.S. Army Armaments, Munitions, and Chemical Command, asked the NRC if it would provide assistance in setting scientific program priorities and in performing program assessments. After considerable deliberation, the BCST, its parent Commission on Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Resources (CPSMR), and the Governing Board of the National Research Council agreed to undertake this task by forming an advisory Committee on Defensive Aspects of Chemical and Biological Warfare. Attachment 1 to this letter contains the background material that was considered by the NRC Governing Board. Attachment 2 contains the text of a special resolution of the Governing Board in which they approved this activity.

For a committee with such a sensitive charge, it is obviously of great importance to involve biochemists, chemists, and engineers of the highest scientific acumen and integrity. I hope that you will be willing to provide suggestions for suitable candidates. We wish to assemble a list of nominees for consideration by the BCST, the CPSMR, and the NRC Chairman by June 1.

Thank you so much for your attention and help. If I can be of assistance by providing you with more information about the Committee, please don't hesitate to write or to call me at (202) 334-2156.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Simon  
Staff Officer

c: William Spindel  
Raphael G. Kasper  
Philip M. Smith

February 16, 1984

For Action  
New Project

COMMISSION ON PHYSICAL SCIENCES, MATHEMATICS, AND RESOURCES

Advisory Committee to the U.S. Army Chemical Research & Development Center  
Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology

SUMMARY: At the request of the U.S. Army Armament, Munitions, and Chemical Command, the Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology proposes to establish a standing Advisory Committee to the U.S. Army Chemical Research and Development Center (CRDC) to assist the CRDC in program assessment and in setting scientific priorities. Approval is requested for the acceptance of funds up to \$200,000 for the first year.

ORIGIN: The Chemical Research and Development Center (CRDC) of the U.S. Army Armament, Munitions, and Chemical Command has requested the assistance of the National Research Council in providing advice on such issues as CRDC program priorities and resource allocation, long-term scientific directions, assessments of CRDC programs, future requirements for facilities and expertise, and the applicability of extramural resources to the CRDC program. A letter to this effect from Dr. Bill Richardson, CRDC Technical Director, is attached. The CRDC has broad responsibility within the Department of Defense for fundamental research and exploratory, advanced, and engineering development on all non-medical aspects of chemical and biological warfare defense, chemical deterrents, and smoke and obscurants systems. The defensive program supports requirements for detection, personnel protection, and decontamination. In 1980, CRDC began a period of rapid increase in funding to a current program of \$80-100 million. CRDC Management believes that an independent, continuing scientific advisory committee, organized by the NRC, would be a valuable resource to the CRDC by providing advice on scientific and organizational matters.

PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION: An advisory committee of 12-15 members would be established under the aegis of the Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology. Membership would be drawn from prominent organic, physical, and analytical chemists; biochemists; and engineers. Expertise in research program assessment and management would be sought, especially among committee members from industry.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS: For the first year after the Committee is organized, meetings would focus on orientation to the CRDC and its programs. After this orientation stage is complete, the Committee would begin to provide advice and assessments concerning the programs within CRDC. The reports of the Committee would be unclassified and freely available to the public, although, for access to needed information, security clearance would be required for Committee members. Should the need for a classified report ever arise, CRDC management have been informed of specific NRC guidelines regarding classified studies.

EXPENDITURES AND SOURCE OF FUNDS: For the first program year, expenditures of \$180,000 are anticipated. This includes four two-day meetings of the Committee and one four-day workshop. The U.S. Army Armament, Munitions, and Chemical Command will provide financial support for this activity.

<u>Salaries and Wages</u>		
Professional	\$ 33,306	
Secretarial - Clerical	15,176	
<u>Fringe Benefits</u>		\$ 11,636
<u>Overhead</u>		39,077
<u>Travel Expenses</u>		48,915
<u>Other Direct Costs</u>		14,933
<u>General &amp; Administrative Costs</u>		<u>16,957</u>
	Total	<u>\$180,000</u>

BOARD ACTION: The Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology approved this activity at its meeting on December 11, 1983.

COMMISSION ACTION: The Commission on Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Resources approved this activity at its meeting on December 16, 1983.

REQUESTED GOVERNING BOARD ACTION: To approve the proposed activity and to authorize the acceptance of funds up to \$200,000 in support of the effort. This amount is within the total authorization for the Commission on Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Resources.

RESPONSIBLE STAFF OFFICER: Robert M. Simon, Staff Officer, Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology, (202/334-2156), NAS 273.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ARMAMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY ARMAMENT, MUNITIONS AND CHEMICAL COMMAND  
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND 21010

November 22, 1983

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Technical Director

Dr. Herbert Friedman  
National Research Council  
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20418

Dear Dr. Friedman:

The Chemical Research and Development Center (CRDC) of the US Army Armament, Munitions and Chemical Command would like the assistance of the National Research Council (NRC) in providing advice on issues such as CRDC program priorities and resource allocation; long-term scientific directions; assessments of CRDC programs; future requirements for facilities and expertise; and the applicability of extramural resources to the CRDC program. An independent, continuing advisory committee organized by the NRC would be a valuable resource to the Center.

At the suggestion of the staff of the NRC-Board on Army Sciences and Technology, a member of my staff, Mr. Merlin Erickson, has had preliminary discussions of this concept with Drs. William Spindel, Robert Simon, and Larry McCray of your staff. We appreciate the role that NRC committees play in providing independent scientific advice to other Federal research and development centers. It is anticipated that most of the advisory committee reports would be unclassified and would be available freely from the National Research Council, although, for access to needed information, security clearance would probably be required for committee members. Drs. Spindel and Simon have discussed NRC guidelines concerning classified reports with Mr. Erickson.

We hope that the Commission on Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Resources would consider undertaking such an effort. If you designate an appropriate staff contact for further discussions, we would be pleased to work with that person in the preparation of a proposal to initiate and fund this activity.

Please call me at (301) 671-4364 if you have questions or need additional information. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

B. Richardson  
Technical Director

RESOLUTION ON ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

1. The proposed project is approved. The intent of the project is to advise on defensive aspects of chemical warfare that are appropriate for consideration by the Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology.
2. It is recognized that consideration of defensive aspects requires an understanding of the nature of offensive weapons. However, the study committee will not advise on matters concerned with the design and deployment of offensive weapons.
3. Reports of the study committee will be unclassified and openly distributed in the manner of most NRC reports. In the event that the sponsor requests a classified study, the Governing Board will be asked to approve the study in the manner that it currently approves all other classified studies.
4. The Commission on Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Resources and its Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology will assure that the intent of the items above is followed and will periodically report to the Governing Board on the activities of the study committee.

Passed unanimously by the  
Governing Board, February 25, 1984