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DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



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Dr. Arthur Greenberg  
Department of Chemical Engineering  
and Chemistry  
New Jersey Institute of  
Technology  
323 High Street  
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Dr. Greenberg:

In answer to your letter of April 2, I think the major objective worth working for in order to minimize the proliferation and use of chemical weapons is the coming into force of an adequate chemical weapons treaty. The great majority of other nations would readily accept any treaty on which the U.S. and USSR could agree. Therefore, U.S. - Soviet agreement is the rate limiting step. Actions specifically directed at the Persian Gulf war would also be useful, but in the long run I think the main issue is getting a treaty.

To suggest that American Chemical Society might play a role is promising. The ACS was effective in helping to secure us ratification of the Geneva Protocol in the 70's. It might be quite effective if the ACS were to devote, at both the national and regional levels, a considerable and substantive effort to this problem. Becoming familiar with the U.S. and Soviet treaty proposals at their state of current negotiations in Geneva would be a first step. Perhaps it would be possible to arrange for some contact and meetings with Soviet chemists. Private informal discussions could reveal whether this line of action would be productive. Another project worth considering would be discussing this with the European Chemical Society. I understand that some of the western Europe countries may see more difficulties with industrial security problems than U.S. industrial

and Government officials think their actually may be. Discussions of this problem involving the right mix of U.S. and European chemistry officials might be helpful. If you want some ideas from close to the scene of action, I suggest you call Robert Mikulak at the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency . He is a chemist himself and has much experience in negotiating a chemical weapons treaty. I do think that somewhere in all of this there is a germ of a good idea which needs to be shaped up and tested. I hope you persevere.

Sincerely,

Matthew Meselson  
Professor of Biochemistry