

21 February, 1985

Lord Zuckerman of Burnham Thorpe
The Shooting Box
Burnham Thorpe
King's Lynn,
Norfolk
ENGLAND

Dear Solly:

I received a telephone call from Porton this morning telling me that their Director has substantially changed his position regarding my memorandum.

You will recall from our own recent telephone conversation that in a call from Porton on 1 February, I was asked to revise my memo of 17 December, a copy of which you have. The requested revisions were read to me and I agreed to make them, since they did not alter the scientific content. I said I wished to give the revised memo to several persons in the U.S. Departments of Defense and State. I sent the revised memo to Porton (memo of 1 February enclosed).

But on the telephone today I was told that:

(1) The Director wants very substantial additional revisions. I have indicated some of them in red ink on the enclosed memo of 1 February. I was told that other requested revisions will follow in a letter from Porton. The new changes badly misrepresent the scientific content of what I was plainly and repeatedly told at Porton in November;

(2) If I circulate even the twice-revised memo, the Director will be obliged to notify the U.S. Government in such a manner that the U.S. may ask HMG to refrain from inviting me to Porton in future.

(3) A report on Porton's analysis of samples I had sent to them, which was to be provided to me, will not be provided.

The only thing that concerns me much in this crude foolishness is the indication that the Director's about-face, certainly an unwelcome duty for him, was ordered from London as part of a larger attempt to bury or soften the Porton report to Richard Norman and MOD. If this is so, governments on both sides of the Atlantic are being deprived of scientific information and evaluation in a matter of high international importance. I trouble you with this only because, if that is truly what is happening, you are the only person I know in the UK who might stop it. What I mean is nothing to do with my memo but rather that the Porton report of last year must have a chance to be read and understood at the appropriate levels of government both there and here.

Warm regards,

Enclosures

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Warm regards,

Enclosures: Memo of 1 February, 1985 (revised 12/17/84 memo)
Mirocha/Cohen letter to Nature (1/24/85)
Meselson letter to Nature (2/22/85)
~~Meselson letter to Mirocha/Cohen (10/19/83)~~

Memo of 17 Dec.
P Feb.

REFERENCE

Yellow Rain - Separating Fact From Fiction (U)
Dr. Sharon A. Watson
ACSI Task: 84-056
AFMIC (Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center)
18 June, 1984.

Classified SECRET