

THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

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12th March 1968

Dear Matt,

I hope you got your book of clippings back together with the British Xeroxes. I now enclose a full transcript of the Moscow Radio commentary of which you saw a summary together with references to the Conference put out by the Tass Agency in English on 27th February. The reference occurs in Tass's summary of the contents of that day's Pravda, so for the full dispatch you would have to refer to Pravda which is probably available to you. If it is not, and you are interested, let me know and I can arrange something here. You will notice that Tass (and Pravda?) refer to the use in Vietnam of new gases; there seems to have been an all-round tie-up on this theme.

When you were over here you were also asking about a CBW research establishment at Langhurst in this country. You may recall the name was unfamiliar to me but I have now come across it in this Moscow Radio commentary. The background to this reference is rather fuller than Moscow Radio indicates. In May 1967 the Press Council, the body which considers complaints from the public against newspapers, censured a paper called 'The Crawley Advertiser' for having printed two articles alleging that an Army Research Establishment at Langhurst near Crawley was a germ warfare plant, giving sensational details. The Ministry of Defence denied the allegations and a local resident eventually brought the matter before the Press Council. When summoned, the editor of the Crawley Advertiser admitted that he was at fault in not having taken greater trouble to check the accuracy of the stories filed by the reporter who was a new man on his staff.

From what I know of the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment (R.A.R.D.E.) I think the Ministry are telling the truth. R.A.R.D.E. is concerned with the development of conventional weapons - guns, armour, high explosives etc.

I have not yet seen the film rushes of your interview but the transcripts of the sound tapes read O.K. I will let you know how it all turns out. The programme forges ahead. On Monday, at last, the M.O.D. gave us

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permission to film at Porton and we shall have to do a rush job there. The programme may have to be postponed for a few weeks. Meanwhile, thank you again for your help.

Yours sincerely,

Mic Flessati

(~~Dominic Flessati~~)
~~Science and Features Department~~

Prof. M. Meselson,
Harvard University,
Cambridge,
Mass.

P.S. I now attach Xerox
of Times report on
Pres Council adjudication
on the Crawley Advertiser
- the Langhurst affair.

HMG

PPS. Our CBW programme postponed
2 or 3 weeks and escalating
into one 75 minutes long or
2 of 50 minutes each...!!!