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Geneva, September 15, 1986.

Prof. Matthew Meselson  
Fairchild Biochemistry Building  
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7 Divinity Road  
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MA 02138  
U.S.A.

Dear Matt,

I have your draft of September 5 on your trip to Moscow. Clearly, it was a very worthwhile effort and let us now see what happens about your three proposals, especially the first about a return visit with medical specialists.

For specific comments on your report you might mention that I also spoke to Colonel-General Nicolai Chervov about the matter (in mid-June when he attended a Pugwash meeting in Geneva and again when I was in Moscow in mid-July). While it is likely that the prime mover was Issraelyan, Chervov may have had something to do with your invitation. (Incidentally, Issraelyan telephoned me yesterday morning asking whether we could meet to discuss the BW Review Conference. We met yesterday afternoon in my office and I enclose an aide-memoire on the meeting.)

Page 2, last paragraph. Did they provide any data on antibodies or other immunological tests for protective effect either in man or animals? The vaccine sounds like a derivative of Sterne's vaccine strain first used in South Africa in the early 1940's.

Page 3, item 3. Shouldn't it be "intestinal" and not "gastric" anthrax?

Page 3, item 4. I am pretty sure there have been many instances of animal anthrax transmitted by dried waste from abattoirs used as supplements to animal feeds, and supposedly sterilized. I will have to look up the references when I have time. (This is being written at home.)

Page 3, item 6. The tests for identifying the anthrax strain as being the same (isolations from man, animals and feeds) are certainly not conclusive. Much better techniques now exist. Did they by chance save strains isolated from each of the sources mentioned?

Page 6, item 20. I would like to see the photo. I do not know any pathologist who has seen human intestinal anthrax. I have seen it in animals and the description is typical. In the USA I suspect that only a few veterinary pathologists have ever seen it (Texas A and M would be the best bet).

The entire description presents a very good case, although one might cavil a bit at the six week stretch of the outbreak, but not unreasonable given the circumstances.

Your three proposals are good ones. How about a visit to Sverdlovsk?

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kaplan', written in a cursive style.

Martin M. Kaplan.