

Piller

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October 9, 1986

Matthew Meselson, PhD
Dept. of Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology
Harvard University
7 Divinity Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Dr. Meselson:

I wanted to thank you again for your insights on the issue of military applications of biotechnology. I also wanted to let you know that Keith Yamamoto and I have obtained a publisher--William Morrow and Co.--for the book we are writing on that subject.

When we last spoke, you offered to talk with me in more detail if I ever passed through Cambridge. In fact, I will be in town in November to interview a number of scientists for the book. I would be very grateful if you could spare the time for a more substantive discussion of your views.

I'd also like to make it clear from the outset that Keith and I are looking at the range of technical prospects on the one hand, and military thinking about these on the other. As you know, military thinking which seems farfetched or even bizarre often is used to establish dangerous or destabilizing policies or programs. In this context, we intend to describe, in general terms, the scientific realities and DOD fantasies related to military applications of biotechnology, as well as their arms control implications. But be assured that our purpose is not to write a cookbook of techniques.

I've enclosed a self-addressed postcard with a list of possible times for us to get together. If any of these are possible, please indicate your preference. Or if you like, give me a call. If we can arrange a meeting, I will send a list of questions for you to consider prior to my arrival. Thanks again, and I hope to see you in November.

Sincerely,



Charles Piller