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MAY 27 1987

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May 22, 1987

Matthew Meselson,
Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Harvard University
7 Divinity Avenue,
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Professor Meselson,

Thank you for the lengthy letter of May 7, 1987 with the remarkable memorandum of September 25, 1986. I have now studied this with considerable care and have quite a lot to say in comment, more than I can put into one letter, but I can start and tell you progress in my own thinking since I first wrote to you.

Through my close friend and associate Philip Brachman I have learned of the Lederberg Committee of NAS, and that he was present when you were discussing this episode. Phil was an EIS officer with me early in the CDC program. I assigned him to the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia expressly for the study of anthrax in the coarse wool and goat hair mills in that city. He was highly successful in defining the low but continuing incidence of anthrax in this industry and was able to set up for the Camp Detrick group a successful trial of its anthrax vaccine.

In 1957 an outbreak of inhalation anthrax occurred in Manchester, NH, which Phil and others investigated with great intensity. It defined for the first time in modern times the clinical and pathological entity. The pathological studies of this outbreak by Wilhelm Albrink are classic. They go a long way to answering your question is there a way to determine the portal of entry of anthrax. The answer is a clear yes with reliable data.

I am in the process of rejuvenating my anthrax file and refreshing my memory for a subject in which I had near "total-immersion" for nearly 30 years. I would be delighted to share this in detail with you.

Rather than writing further should we not plan to get together soon? I can come to Boston at almost any time that would be convenient for you.

Sincerely yours,
Alexander D. Langmuir
Alexander. D. Langmuir

CC P. Brachman

E. Blout