

Langmuir

ALEXANDER D. LANGMUIR, M.D.

RFD ABEL'S HILL  
CHILMARK, MA. 02535  
TELEPHONE 645-2624

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Matthew Meselson, Professor  
Biological Chemistry  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Professor Meselson,

You will remember our correspondence of last year and our one meeting in your office last summer in re: anthrax. You gave me rather voluminous material which I am still studying. AIDS and listeriosis have completely absorbed my time.

At our meeting I mentioned the possible importance of Dr. DA Henderson, Dean of JHU School of Hygiene and Public Health. He is a former student, associate and close friend. He directed the highly successful small pox eradication program.

In that role with WHO for 10 years, he developed extensive and highly effective working relationships with the best of the epidemiologically oriented public officials in the USSR. These men are now in the highest places in Moscow.

On several occasions I have talked with DA about the Sverdlovsk anthrax incident. He knew nothing about it. But when I learned that he was on the delegation to Moscow last month with De Press and Thier and others from NAS I asked him specifically to inquire about Sverdlovsk.

He has now returned and writes me a letter, copy enclosed, that I believe will interest you. I have not asked his permission to do so but know him well enough to send it anyway with the sense that you will consider it basically a personal letter.

You may be interested in his comments on AIDS. They were quite new to me.

Incidentally you may also be interested in the progress of my ideas on AIDS projections in the USA. Everything is going on schedule. The crest of the epidemic is not quite at hand but all indications it will occur before the end of 1988. I meet with the CBASSE committee tomorrow.

The latest approach that Dennis Bregman and I have developed permits an intriguing derivation of the incubation period for AIDS-3 to 25 years with a median of 7. It's in the failure to appreciate this feature of AIDS that has caused all of us much grief in the past.

Sincerely yours,  
*Alexander D. Langmuir*

Enclosure  
cc: DA Henderson