

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
16 DIVINITY AVENUE  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

May 18, 1967

Dr. Jerome Horowitz  
Melpar, Inc.  
7700 Arlington Boulevard  
Falls Church, Virginia

Dear Dr. Horowitz:

Thank you very much for your letter and enclosed materials which I have found most helpful.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute meeting last week took two decisions for future work. First, the trial inspection study will be repeated and extended. Last year four microbiological research establishments were visited to determine the feasibility of inspecting for non production of biological weapons. The four establishments were in Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Austria and Denmark. The visits were conducted by arrangement with the director of each institute. That is, no consultations at the governmental level were involved. The inspection team consisted of one man from each of the countries included in the inspection experiment. The next round of inspections will attempt to cover the same four institutions. In addition, an attempt will be made to include a microbiological industrial establishment in each of the four countries. The purpose of this extension is to develop means of inspecting industrial establishments that may operate with a certain amount of commercial secrecy. The second project decided upon is an attempt to determine the background level of micro organisms in relatively clean air. The collection will be done over an isolated snow field in Sweden this winter. A collecting devise similar to the Litton Industries large volume air sampler will be employed. The collecting will be done by personnel of the Swedish Military Research Establishment who will supply samples to a cooperating laboratory in Prague and also to one in Stockholm. Detailed plans for characterizing the sampled material are yet to be worked out.

The execution of both projects depends on a decision of the board of the Stockholm institute to provide the necessary funds. Mainly, these will be required for travel expenses and for two or three

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fellowships to support research personnel. Laboratory costs as such will be donated by the participating institutions.

The more I learn, the less likely it seems to me that natural backgrounds are anywhere low enough to allow remote test detection on the basis of non specific methods. It seems to me that the last ditch hope for non specific test detection resides in the possibility that nearly all of the organisms measured by NASA and others to date have come from relatively local sources and/or reside on particles larger than approximately 5-10 microns in diameter. If it turns out that non specific methods are inapplicable to the first stage of remote test detection, the Stockholm group will probably turn its attention to florescent antibody methods. It was decided that some simple experiments be performed using florescent antibodies in an attempt to characterize the material to be collected this winter.

I am not sure when I will next be down in Washington again. Possibly, it will be in the middle of the summer. When I do next come down, I will surely call you. Thanks for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson