

Herriott

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Matthew Meselson
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Dear Matthew:

Many thanks for the three issues of Chemical Weapons Bulletin. I had not realized that the movement had gone so far. The proposed means of controlling CW by inspecting chemical plants and storage depots seems cumbersome and not necessarily fully reliable. In addition it would necessitate continuous surveillance, and a tiresome chore for the inspectors after a year or two.

My thoughts went that route, but when I realized that the U.S and Nato countries have produced and stored CW agents since 1917 without using them, it pointed up that the production and storage are not the sins, it is the use. As you know, most nations produce CW agents for retaliatory defense, rather than for offensive use.

Perhaps the time is ripe for the big powers to demand an end to the use of CW agents. If the Nato countries, Russia, Japan, and hopefully, China were to agree that they would not use them and follow this with a declaration that they would collectively take action against a user, it would be a mad leader to order its use.

The penalty for its use can be argued but there are some obvious actions that would be considered.

If there are only a few leaders of nations who would consider using CW, and they are not in a position to withstand the rath, let alone, the action of the Power nations, don't you think this would stop the use of CW?


This proposal depends on getting agreement among the powers and on CW I believe it could be done. If it could, it would be a wonderful example of how other stressful problems of world wide interest might be solved.

There are undoubtedly objections to such a proposal but none that are insoluble, and the advantages are significant.

Thanks for letting me get this to you.

Best regards!

Sincerely,



Roger M. Herriott, Ph.D.

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