

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

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MILL HILL,
LONDON, N.W.7.

PERSONAL

1st November, 1967.

Dear Matt,

A meeting is being planned in London by myself and half a dozen others in connection with the inauguration of the John D. Bernal Peace Library. The present date is February 22/23, 1968. The meeting is to be a closed discussion in which about 40 people might take part, including guests from Europe and the U.S., with possibly one session open to the press. The subject is Chemical and Biological Warfare in an Age of Nuclear Stalemate, and we intend to have a series of sessions on C and BW (including napam, defoliants and crop destroying agents). The aim of the conference will be to review such data as are available about the current state of the art and to go into the implications in international law, politics and scientific and medical ethics. The outcome will be a book to be published as a paperback (a Panther special). There is some conflict of opinion among the scientists as to how far the conference shall be aimed at informing people and how far aimed at mobilizing opinion against the use of such methods. I personally am in favour of letting facts speak for themselves rather than thrusting opinions down peoples throats, and I presume there will be something of both.

The purpose of my writing on this subject is to ask whether you might be willing and able to come to this conference (your fare would be paid). We have not finalized the list of speakers but we have in mind to have two or three from America and perhaps half a dozen from the continent ~~and~~ of Europe.

Yours ever,

J.H. Humphrey

Professor M. Meselson,
Department of Biology,
Harvard University,
Cambridge. Mass. 02138.

P.S. I thought that the discussion broadcast by BBC 3 in which you took part was quite effective, though it was a bit long and tended to drak in parts.