

Lederberg

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL
2101 Constitution Avenue Washington, D.C. 20418

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Dr. Matthew Meselson
Fairchild Biochemistry Building
Harvard University
7 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Matt:

Dr. Lederberg suggested I write to inform you of the status of the CISAC working group on biological weapons control. You may recall that at the May 1988 bilateral meeting with the Soviets at the Academy in which you participated, it was suggested that each side appoint a small working group of individuals who would work more intensively on these issues and that the working groups might meet together several times a year.

Both sides have since formed active working groups. The members of the American group are Dr. Lederberg, Robert Chanock, Thomas Monath, Alexis Shelokov and John Steinbruner. They met several times over the fall and winter to prepare for the first meeting of the Soviet and American working groups which took place last April. Both groups have been working hard to develop concrete suggestions for improving confidence and enhancing the verification measures of the Biological Weapons Convention. They have also been addressing the challenge of bilateral approaches to the prevention of BW proliferation. The two working groups will meet again in October to continue their work.

For the time being, we plan to continue the activity through these smaller working groups. On behalf of Dr. Lederberg and the Academy, I would like to thank you for your participation in the initial development of this activity. I hope we may call on you again in the future should the opportunity arise.

Sincerely,



Lynn Rusten
Director
Committee on International
Security and Arms Control