

SAUL HORMATS
1301 Park Heights Av.
Baltimore, Md. 21206

Hormats

20 April 1990

Dr. Robert A. Weinberg
Whitehead Institute
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
9 Cambridge Center
Cambridge, MA, 02142

Dear Dr. Weinberg:

This is to express my non-concurrence with the findings of your Review Group: In essence all is well with the current Biological Warfare Convention, all we have to do is make some minor changes and everything will be even better.

You have completely ignored my 20 December letter a copy of which is inclosed to refresh your memory. Biological Warfare agents are short-lived, one does not store BW munitions for years as with conventional, chemical or nuclear munitions, they would be produced shortly before intended use. Production and dissemination techniques and the modus for strategic employment, developed prior to 1969, are still applicable. Existing industrial capabilities could quickly be modified for production and dissemination, appropriate-type aircraft are available. Indeed, with one microorganism rather than a thousand or ten thousand needed for infection, all this could be done very quickly. Despite the findings of your Core Group of experts, there are no "Choke Points", in other words, once an agent is discovered and laboratory tested, we'd be ready to go.

If what I suspect in my inclosure is true, your upcoming deliberations will be pointless. With all appropriate respect, may I suggest you preface your findings with a concern along the lines of my writing and a demand that a committee selected by me, or by someone acceptable to me, be set up to find out what is going on here, with early copies of this to appropriate groups and even our media as an expression of our concern. I say me, considering the reaction to my letter, am not sure your experts have either the stomach or knowledge for such.

Perhaps my problem here is your reluctance to accept what I suggest might be happening, after all a country as kind and good as ours would never do such a thing. However, it was Reagan and Bush who abrogated Nixon's 1969 CW position, resumed production of nerve gas munitions with no military justification whatsoever, and publicized the new safe and easy procedure we are using to produce the nerve gas. Iraq and some 10 or more other countries are now following our lead.

Your early response would be appreciated by me and others also concerned here.

SAUL HORMATS