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To: Robert A. Weinberg
From: Martin M. Kaplan

26 April 1990

This is in answer to your gentle reminder of April 17 to comment on the proposals for the BWC review conference. I would like to make a general comment which colors my specific responses. It concerns the Introduction, p.2 section on "Negotiating a Verification Protocol to the BWC." I agree fully with the difficulties noted in paras. 2, 3 and 4. Having closely followed the negotiations for a CWC for over 14 years, and how one country can effectively obstruct its attainment (the USSR formerly and now the USA) I shudder that another group of negotiators will pursue their careers in Geneva for n years to work out modifications of the BWC along some of the lines indicated, notably amendments and protocols, in the draft. I therefore believe that all the emphasis should be placed on voluntary unilateral or multilateral CBMs and on the fewest possible formal agreements, rather than on formal protocols and amendments.

Item B. 1) on p. 7. Toxicity studies on biochemicals or chemicals in general would cover too much territory for serious adherence.

Item B. 2) c) on p. 9. WHO already covers this item, and the response has been poor to a recommendation on this subject made at the second review conference.

Item C. p. 10. A technical Advisory Group would become another bureaucratic white elephant in the UN system. A Consultative Committee mechanism could serve adequately.

Item C. 3). p. 11. Same as previous item.

Item C. 4) p.11. My comments on the Introduction above applies especially here as regards time and cost. Also an inspectorate to cover both CW and kBW would be unwieldy; different wexpertise, data etc. is required.

Item D. 1, p.11 and D. 2) p.12. See previous items against a

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formal inspectorate. Use the authority of the UN Secretary-General to carry out any challenge inspection or investigate any suspicious event.

Item V A, p.13. It is highly unlikely that at least one of the permanent members of the Security Council would forego the veto privilege.

Item A) 1), p. 14 (fellowship program). I consider this unworkable.

Appendix A

Item A. 2, p. 1. Add to the examples Ebola and yellow fever viruses.

Item A. 3, d. Add to the examples Newcastle disease (poultry) and avian influenza. Certain strains of these viruses are very lethal and cause great economic losses.

bc. Meselson
Perry - Robinson