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Dr. Mathew Meselson,
Dept. of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology,
Harvard University,
7 Divinity Avenue,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS 02138

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Dear Dr. Meselson,

Many thanks for your letter and enclosures. I have passed your personal references to my technician to check against our now very extensive computerised references. While I recognise many of the pieces you quote, I may get back to you, especially where we may not have an English translation of Russian papers. The reality of anthrax in Russia is very confused and I suspect for the Russians themselves. One of the outcomes of next month's Anthrax meeting in Geneva will, I hope, be to initiate a clarification visit to that country. For your interest I am enclosing a copy of the latest agenda for the WHO meeting.

I much enjoyed your FAS analysis of the Sverdlovsk incident, very clear and succinct but also politic. It confirms my own beliefs on that affair. Whoever initiated the mischief had little knowledge of the normal epidemiology of human enteric anthrax outbreaks. Even before I read your account based on conversations with the relevant Russians, the available public information was of a classical outbreak of food borne anthrax. I can match it, except for the large number of cases, by a number of reports in the literature of enteric outbreaks in Africa, Philippines, Burma, Thailand, etc.

I spoke with Jean Mayer but he was unable to remember his father's story of the two German students dropping cultures in glass globes/bottles onto the Metro tracks. For your interest, I am enclosing a copy of my computerised notes to date. I still have a large box of German reprints to go back through and enter into my notes but it will give you an idea of what happened. In rereading these notes I have just rediscovered a drawback of central computer services -- my latest entries are missing and that there must have been a backup failure. I have just heard from the UK PRO that the

WO 188/650 file is available; this file reviews the totality of British knowledge in 1936 of German activities and the initiation of Porton. All I have to do now is come up with the money to get it copied. With the exchange rate as it is at present this will have to wait until the New Year.

Many thanks for letting me see your disarmament paper. My only comment is that crotojarid and arachnid toxins can now be made in the laboratory from suitably modified E.coli cultures.

With thanks for your interest and help

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Martin Hugh-Jones', written in dark ink.

Martin Hugh-Jones