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NOV 30 1990

Nov. 22/90

Dear Dr. Meselson,

I enclose a copy of the MSS of the paper I gave in September at Erhard Geissler's symposium 'Preventing a Biological Arms Race'. He is an old friend of mine and he wanted me to speak even though I am no expert on biological warfare agents. Not knowing what I could say that had not already been said, I did a quick survey of the literature and was surprised not to find anything on the possible ecological/environmental consequences of the large scale release of genetically engineered pathogens. Hence my amateurish paper - as I also am not a microbial ecologist. (I am a molecular geneticist working for many years on DNA repair & mutagenesis, mostly in S. cerevisiae)

Thus, I write to ask if you know of any previous papers, reports etc in which BW is discussed from the standpoint of microbial ecology? The reason for my request is that I have it in mind to write a more thorough paper on this topic, albeit highly speculative. Any suggestions from you would be most appreciated.

I have heard you speak at various meetings, but I do not think we ever have been formally introduced. I was on the faculty in biophysics at the Univ. of Chicago (1958-64) and at Berkeley (1964-68). David Freifelder was the first grad. student I supervised (as a member of his 'committee' at Chicago). He spoke of you often with much admiration and affection. I was quite devastated by his death - a great loss to the community.

I also enclose a couple of other 'flaky' papers which might at least amuse you. I won't bore you with my 'zombie' papers on the structure of the yeast genes which control deoxyribonucleotide biosynthesis!

I would also like to have copies of your papers on CBW, if possible.

Best regards,

Bob Hayes

P.S. I was sorry not to see you at K hlungsborn for Beisser's symposium. When I saw your name on the organizing committee I thought you might be there.