

Gumbel #5

9 September, 1991

Dear Mr Gumbel,

On my return to Cambridge this week, I received the sad news that on August 28, Will Albrink died. He was a superb scientist of the highest intellectual standards -- and almost certainly the only American pathologist with detailed first-hand knowledge of the pathoanatomy of human systemic anthrax.

Regarding your questions about Aramil, here is the relevant page of my 1986 Moscow notebook, written at the Botkina hospital as the interpreter translated the presentation of Dr. Bezdenezhnykh. As I told you on the telephone, it is clear from my notes that Aramil played some role in the provision of the contaminated meal but I cannot say from my notes or my memory that any Soviet ever claimed that Aramil did the actual production. On this point, my FAS report is misleading.

As to the information I cited there about the manometers and the wheelbarrow, it came from the manuscript given to me in 1986. At this point I feel that accuracy would be best served by giving you the 1986 manuscript and my permission to quote passages from it. In addition, I will do my best to have a properly translated and referenced version of the longer 1988 manuscript published in an appropriate journal.

The audio tapes from Washington and Baltimore will be sent to you via NY today. Reviewing my records, I see that video recordings were made only of the Cambridge presentation, on August 15. Let me know if you want a copy.

Sincerely,

Matthew Meselson