

Hugh-Jones

Department of Epidemiology & Community Health,
School of Veterinary Medicine,
Louisiana State University,
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-8404, USA
(Tel: 504-346-3335)
(FAX: 504-346-3295)

8 October, 1991

Dr. Mathew Meselson,
Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology,
Harvard University,
7 Divinity Ave.,
CAMBRIDGE, Mass 02138-2092

Dear Mathew,

Many thanks for your letter and enclosures. Reading between the lines of your notes on Gumbel's conversations, I get the distinct impression that you believe firmly that the time has come to either definitively sort out the reality (singular) of Sverdlovsk or to relegate it to past history. I fear that the uncertainties of the Soviet present and the ditherings of bureaucrats, American and Soviet, will produce neither resolution. It may well become like the death of the Czar and his family ... the outlines are fairly clear but there are unending arguments over details.

OCT 11 1991

I have had replies from all but two of the people I sent my first draft. So far no major or minor rewrites have been demanded; in fact the Porton historian was most complimentary and, as expected, was enticed to provide more information. But it seems I must better describe some of the participants (eg Klotz, Stolzenberg), and especially the contemporary distrust of Steed in certain English quarters.

It seems from what we, here, hear of David Huxsoll's mission that you are fortunate in not being with him on that Iraqi safari.

With thanks & best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Martin Hugh-Jones

PS: I have just been appointed the Director of the newly confirmed 'WHO Collaborating Center for Reference & Training in Zoonosis Surveillance Systems' here at LSU/SVM. Big title, no money, but it will help raise funds. The major thrust is in epidemiological applications of remote sensing and geographic information systems.