

Shelokov

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
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5 February 1992

Dear Alexis and Martin,

Here is a packet of things I sent to Sverdlov in NYC to take with him to Moscow. On the telephone yesterday, he repeated his willingness to help us in Moscow and his agreeability to the first two weeks of June. Now we await a response from Yablokov. Meanwhile, we can continue to refine our ideas of what to do if we do go.

What do you think of trying to meet sometime in April or early May for 2 or 3 days of reading and brainstorming? I have a considerable collection of maps, photos, articles, audio and video tapes and other materials. Many of the older articles are listed in the enclosed bibliography. We could retreat to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences here in Cambridge or to our large house at Woods Hole, together with 2 or 3 advisors such as Phil Brachman, Dave Huxsoll, Alex Langmuir, and Jim Steele. It is imperative that we also identify a first rate pathologist for the kind of advice that Will Albrink could have given so well.

Martin, in response to your letters of 24 and 28 February:

1) The information I have regarding where the anthrax cases occurred is (i) the enclosed US map in "Soviet Biological Warfare Threat" stating that a spore cloud traveled in a south-southwesterly direction from the facility (ii) the statement by Bezdenezhnykh in Moscow in 1986 that about 70% of the residences were in southern Sverdlovsk and nearby suburbs and 30% elsewhere in the city and (iii) recent articles in the Russian press stating that many cases appeared in southern Sverdlovsk. I have marked a street intersection on the US map and what I think is the same intersection on the SPOT photo.

2) As for my met reports, I do not know for sure what their source is. For the time being, would you be willing to try to get the data for the Sverdlovsk Koltsovo airport from the IATA? Independent confirmation would be good to have.

3) Now that you mention it, I seem to remember reading about protean sites in systemic anthrax. A literature search is needed.

4) I have no case-by case epidemiological data. Does any still exist anywhere? This we will try to find out in Russia. Otherwise, we will need to rely on interviews with family members and survivors named in the Russian press and on grave markers, as suggested in the enclosed "Preliminary Outline...".

Do please let me hear from you on these various matters.

Matthew

As ever,

- 1) Letter of 3 March to Prof A.V. Yablokov to be hand delivered in Moscow by Sverdlov.
 - 2) Letter of 4 March to Sverdlov, sent to him in NYC % Alex Goldfarb
 - 3) Preliminary outline for Study Trip
 - 4) Preliminary Outline of Objectives and Procedures
 - 5) Persons in USA and Russia
- Sverdlov also sent videotapes of Cambridge mtg of April 1988.