

Melling

July 15, 1992

Prof. J. Melling
PHLS CAMR
Porton Down
Salisbury
Wiltshire SP4 0JG
United Kingdom

Dear Prof. Melling:

I am writing to seek your review of the enclosed manuscript "Preliminary Report on the Pathology of Fatal Anthrax in the Sverdlovsk Outbreak of 1979", by F.A. Abramova et al., which I wish to submit to the Proceedings of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

This article represents the first scientific report resulting from a study trip to Ekaterinburg (formerly Sverdlovsk) conducted by Dr. Walker, myself and four others last month. A second article will deal with epidemiologic aspects.

Since the Sverdlovsk anthrax outbreak has been a matter of unusual importance and controversy, we are anxious to exercise the greatest care and rigor in reaching conclusions regarding its nature and, as will be considered in the subsequent article, its epidemiologic aspects and possible source. I would therefore appreciate your most careful review of both the substance and the organization of the present manuscript.

Sincerely,

Matthew Meselson
Professor of Biochemistry
and Molecular Biology