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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-8025

*AUG 28 1992*

August 25, 1992

Prof. Matthew S. Meselson  
Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Harvard University  
7 Divinity Ave.  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Prof. Meselson,

As you know, the first product of OTA's ongoing assessment of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction will be a report focusing on the technical hurdles involved in their development and production, and "signatures" that might be used to monitor their spread. This report is now in the drafting stage, and is scheduled for publication in early 1993. A second report, scheduled for publication in the fall of 1993, will analyze policy options based on the technical findings of the first report.

I would be grateful if you could review the enclosed draft of the chapter on Technical Aspects of Chemical Weapons Proliferation, which focuses on production and monitoring technologies. (Questions of military utility are covered in an earlier chapter, while arms control and verification options will be covered in the second report.) Please examine the chapter carefully for technical accuracy, coverage of key issues, objectivity, and analytic judgement. Since the chapter is longer than originally planned, I would also welcome suggestions for cuts.

Because OTA makes extensive revisions in its draft reports before they are made final, we ask all reviewers to treat our drafts in the utmost confidence. Please do not cite, distribute, copy, or use the draft in oral or written presentations. If you seek the advice of your colleagues on specific points, please ensure that they understand the need for confidentiality.

There is no need for formality in making comments. A phone call, notes made in the margin of the draft chapter, or written comments are all fine. Please provide your comments to Jonathan Tucker (202/228-6425), or if Jonathan is not available, to me (202/228-6428). Our fax number is 202/228-6424. I would appreciate receiving your comments on or before Friday, September 11.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely,

*Gerald L. Epstein*

Gerald L. Epstein  
Project Director

Enclosure: Copy No. I.5.A-3