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Prof. Mathew Meselson,
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Dear Mathew,

Exams are over so I rewarded myself by studying your first draft on the Sverdlovsk incident. Not a bad first draft but a number of problems.

[a] Authorship: I note that you include Langmuire and Popova but exclude David Walker. This is a mistake on a number of levels. David played a key role during the visit both directly with Abramova & Grinberg, and during each evening's private group discussion, but also indirectly and most importantly by confirming in the field that we were dealing with pneumonic anthrax. And on Saturday, 6th June, at the evening discussion in Yekaterinberg we agreed that everyone would be included. Your "epidemiological paper" argument for exclusion is not strong when you include Yampolskaya. So to head off any future criticisms and to show solidarity, you really must include him.

[b] Case List: I have gone through the list of cases that you provide for this paper and cannot identify all the cases. Specifically:

- i: Top of page 15, between cases 41 & 42 is an unnumbered male case with ??? dates. Who is this?
- ii: Please identify numbers 80 to 90 inclusive ... also as some of these, 6/11, appear to be "new", would you please provide home and work addresses; I recognised Runev, Kazakov, Sterkov, Talashmannov, & Tolmacheva. Apropos the latter five I had always been led to believe that Nikiforov's notes indicated that they were cutaneous cases. Am I wrong?
- iii: How come Tishenko (#68 in the paper's case list) is listed as 32 years old? You have the photo of her grave marker; I do not have one and lack copies of yours to fill my gaps. But the original notes from yourself had her being born in 1957. Come to think of it, I had always thought that the

Kindergarten teacher, Korsheleva, was the youngest female to die at 24.

- iv: I am checking your histogram and have yet to check each case but I note that you have Kozlova dying on the 11th April (grave marker date) while there was evidence that she had died on the previous day, the 10th.
- v: For various unstated reasons, certain individuals are missing from your case list. Ignoring the bulk of these (we can discuss them later), but what are your reasons for excluding Spirina? The pathology indicated healed anthrax lesions.

[c] Aerosol calculations: I am working my way through your calculations & arguments and will get back to you, but thanks for the listing in BASIC. My math lets me down frequently but would you show me how your QR calculation went from


$$(10^{10}) \times (1.67 \times 10^{-4}) \text{ to become } (1.06 \times 10^5)$$

[d] Veterinary response: My notes indicate that 325 cattle, sheep, goats and pigs were given antiserum on 11th April. Later 1686 cattle, horses, pigs and sheep were vaccinated using STI and GNKI vaccines during the period 10-23.4.79. [I must re-examine the original copies to recheck dates and such.]. Although stupidity is always possible, eg vaccinating within a day or so of passive immunization, common sense would propose that those animals in immediate danger were given the serum on the 11th while vaccination teams spread out to cover the rest and returned to the serum treated stock probably from the 15th onwards. It is not the best technique but each country has its own protocol, unfortunately. I will go through Kharamchenko's report line by line,

These are enough points to get on with for the present.

Best wishes to you both,

Yours sincerely,

Martin Hugh-Jones 

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