

Fedorov

СОЮЗ ЗА ХИМИЧЕСКУЮ БЕЗОПАСНОСТЬ UNION FOR CHEMICAL SAFETY

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March 28, 1994

Dear Dr. Mathew Meselson,

Dr. Constance Pechuaa (Institute of Medicine, Washington DC) suggested that I direct my difficult questions specifically to you. As you may know, in the Russian City of Cheboksari (Chuvash Republic/ Volga River Basin), from 1973- 1987 we produced the chemical warfare agent VX. Currently, everyone is involved with the examination of processes for destruction of chemical weapons- a universally welcome development. At the same time, the people of Russia who worked in the production of these poisons have been forgotten. This population consists of some 2,500-3,000 people who worked in the production of VX and are very ill as a result of their work.


VX was produced in Russia at a civilian facility. At the same time, data regarding possible ways of dealing with the consequences of VX exposure are thus far only available to the military and thus secret. As a result, not a single civilian doctor is available to examine those suffering from VX exposure, let alone to try to cure them. Meanwhile, all these people, whose ages range from 40-60, are not expected to long survive, with some of them likely to end their lives in psychiatric hospitals.

As you can see, in Russia we have a population exposed to micro doses of nerve agents, but no corresponding population of doctors able to give these chronically and deathly ill people either examination or consultation or help. It is because of this that we turn to the doctors of America.

We sincerely hope that among your contacts in the U.S. medical community, you may know those who may provide us with their specific, professional help in this matter. As you appreciate, my current request is of a strictly problematic nature at this point. Only in the event that you can help me to locate professionally qualified doctors, will I be able to contact Foundations regarding support and compensation of these doctors and their work in our behalf.

If you can be of specific help to us in this critical matter, please contact me prior to 4/17/94 through the offices of Craig Williams (Chemical Weapons Working Group, fax 606-986-2695) or Gail Colby (Fax 609-497-1970). After 4/18 I will be back in Russia and can be contacted there at the coordinates provided.

Sincerely Yours,


Fedorov Lev A.,
President Union on Chemical Safety