

July 15, 1963

Dr. Martin M. Kaplan  
World Health Organization  
United Nations Organization  
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Martin:

I need rather urgently to become informed about the possibilities of useful cooperation in biology and medicine between the U. S. and the USSR. I should be very grateful for whatever comments and information you could send me on several aspects of this matter:

- 1) What areas of cooperation do you think would be fruitful from these three viewpoints:
  - a) The extension of peaceful contact and cooperation between the U. S. and the USSR.
  - b) Substantial scientific and/or health benefits.
  - c) Good saleability both to the participants and to other nations.
- 2) Would you provide me with a list of persons from which might be formed a working committee to plan specific programs? I would like names for three conceivable committees: U. S., U. S.-USSR, and multi-national.
- 3) What do you think about the advantages of bilateral U. S.-USSR cooperation as opposed to multilateral efforts?
- 4) How much of an effort could be envisioned without degeneration into window-dressing and top-heaviness? That is, how many men and how many dollars would be involved in various programs? Very roughly.
- 5) What can be done to avoid having such programs become mostly motion with few results? Although I am primarily interested

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in the political benefits, no program would be attractive unless responsible experts in the appropriate fields gave it their continuing respect.

- 6) Who should I talk with in Washington or Cambridge? I have talked with Dr. James Watt at HEW.
- 7) Could the international biological laboratory you are contemplating fit into this?

Although today I'm in Cambridge, this summer I have been working at the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Please reply to me there c/o Science and Technology. Washington has been a gratifying experience for me so far and mercifully cool as well.

As ever,

Matthew Meselson

MM / JAS