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including cover sheet

TO: Professor Matthew Meselson

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Harvard University

Cambridge, MA 02138

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MESSAGE:

April 10, 1995

Dear Matt

I have sent you this same letter by post (mailed Saturday).
Which will reach you first. Either way, I look forward to your
prompt affirmative answer.

Sincerely ;

Joe

J. F. Bonnett

Sorry, my old typewriter has trouble with "y".



DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95064

April 8, 1995

Professor Matthews Meselson
Department of Biology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Harvard University
7 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Matt

I write to inquire whether you once again are willing to come to the aid of the world in a matter of destroying chemical weapons.

The situation is this: The U.S. Congress has allocated several million dollars for assistance to Russia in destroying its chemical munitions. In discussions between Russian authorities and U.S. Army representatives, a plan has been developed. In an early stage, each nation is to examine in the laboratory methods for chemical demilitarization developed by the other. In Phase I, U.S. personnel will study Russian methodologies, and a report on their findings will be written. In Phase II, Russian personnel will examine experimentally U.S. methodologies, and again a report will be written.

It is desired that each report be subjected to peer review. For that purpose, a peer review committee of six, three Americans and three Russians, is to be constituted. The committee will review the Phase I report and report its judgment in writing. It will do likewise with respect to the Phase II report. I have consented to chair the committee; Prof. Irina Beletskaya of Moscow State University will head the Russian wing of the committee and act as vice-chair of the whole. It is my responsibility to recruit the two additional American members and hers to recruit the two additional Russian members.

I have invited Dr. George Parshall, retired du Pont research executive, to be a member of the committee, and he has accepted. It is now my pleasure to invite you to be the third American committee member. Knowing the depth of your experience with chemical weapons, the quality of your mind and the excellence of your judgment, I very much hope that you will accept.

The work plan will be something like this: The investigators' report on Phase I is expected to be available about September 3, 1995; the peer review committee's report is to be submitted within

J. F. Bunnett to M. Meselson

April 8, 1995

28 days. The investigators' report on Phase II is expected to be available about November 26; again the peer review committee's report will be due within 4 weeks. Each investigators' report will be furnished immediately to all committee members; each committee member is expected to spend two days in study of the report, after which the whole committee of six will meet for two days to discuss the report and agree on what judgments to offer. Two such sequences of work will be involved, one for Phase I, the other for Phase II. The committee meeting in respect to Phase I will be held in the U.S., probably in Edgewood, MD. The committee meeting for Phase II will be held in Moscow, Russia.

Committee members will receive payment for their service as consultants as well as reimbursement of travel and other out-of-pocket expenses. The probable consulting fee is \$600 per day. All this will be financed by contract with the University of California; payments of consulting fees and reimbursement of costs will be by UC, according to UC procedures (which require submission of receipts for major outlays).

Documents will be translated from one language to the other as necessary.

Matt, I hope the above covers the main aspects of the work. If you wish to chat with me about it, please phone. My office number is 408-459-2261, and my home phone 408-423-3852. My secretary will be on holiday April 10-13, incl., and I am not always in the office. Probably your surest way of getting me by phone is at home in the morning, between 10 a.m and noon, Eastern time (that is between 7 and 9 a.m., Pacific time). Alternatively, if you call later in the day at my office and get no answer, leave a message at 408-459-4002; I will call back.

Again, please understand that I would very much value your collaboration in this matter, and hope that you accept the duty. I must ask a prompt reply; I have been asked to submit a complete plan to Army representatives by April 13, although I have requested extension to April 18.

Sincerely,



J. F. Bunnett

P.S. Bechtel Corp. has won a major Army contract for service in support of the Russian chem demil effort, but I am unsure exactly what Bechtel is expected to do. Battelle Memorial Institute is also involved, and again I am unsure exactly how. I do not believe that either Bechtel or Battelle will in any way participate in the peer review program.