

Geissler



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11 March 1996

Dear Matt,

As promised I provide you with my meager correspondence with Dr. Trnka, together with a copy of the Bratislava report.

John Ellis van Courtland Moon asked me to give you his best regards. We spend eleven days together in my office to finalize the chapters for the forthcoming BW history book. He left this morning for Nuremberg.

Looking forward to meeting you soon in Budapest,

with best wishes,

Erhard Geissler

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Copy

11 March 1996

Dear Dr. Trnka,

Thank you very much for your letter of 5 January 1996. In the meantime I obtained photocopies of documents I identified during my last stay at the Military Archive of the German Federal Archive, including the letter mentioning the anthrax work allegedly carried out in Bratislava. As there is explicit mentioning of a name (Spilgra) I wonder whether you would be so kind to think about that issue a second time. (I personally would be surprised if there had been BW activities in Bratislava at that time because this topic and this place have never been mentioned in any German BW document again. As the Slovak Republic had close ties to Germany during WWII such work would have certainly continued, if it were existent.)

I enclose a copy of that document.

As you mention that you have not worked in Detrick I would appreciate an information where you did your anthrax research quoted in the "Proceedings of the Conference on Progress in the Understanding of Anthrax", *Federation Proceedings* 1966, vol. 26, p. 1558 (Lincoln et al.).

Thank you very much again.

Yours sincerely



Erhard Geissler

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Betr.: C.S.R. - Versuche mit Milzbrandbazillus in Pressburg.(47/58)

Glaubwürdiger V-Mann berichtet:

Im Jahre 1937 wurden in einer Sonderabteilung des Div.Krankenhauses in Pressburg unter der Aufsicht und Leitung eines Majors S p i l g r a Versuche mit Milzbrandbazillen für Kriegszwecke gemacht.

Dabei wurden die Bazillen auf Fliegen übertragen. Mit diesen Fliegen wurden Versuche gemacht, wieviel Fliegen man z.B. auf ein Kilogramm Gewicht zusammenbringen kann. Ausserdem wurden die Fliegen verschiedenen Temperaturen ausgesetzt, und ermittelt, bei welcher Temperatur diese geimpften Fliegen in einen Erstarrungszustand verfallen, ohne jedoch zugrunde zu gehen.

Zweck dieser Versuche war, diese halberstarrten geimpften Fliegen in grosser Zahl in Behältern unterzubringen, und dann aus Flugzeugen über deutschem Gebiet abzuwerfen. Nach dem Abwurf sollten sich die Fliegen in der normalen Temperatur aus ihrer Erstarrung erholen und den Milzbrandbazillus auf die Truppen übertragen.

Diese Meldung ist keine Phantasie, sondern diese Versuche wurden tatsächlich als strengstes Geheimnis durchgeführt.

I.A. *Chman*

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Dear Dr. Trnka,

I owe your address Professor Matthew Meselson who gave me advice to contact you regarding possible pre-WWII Tschechoslovak BW activities.

Studying the history of BW activities in Germany between 1914 and 1945 and coordinating, together with Professor John Ellis van Courtland Moon, an international comparative study of the history of BW in several countries, I discovered in the Federal Military Archives, Freiburg, Breisgau, a report on alleged anthrax activities carried out in Bratislava: According to an agent flies have been infected with *Bac. anthracis* [which was later doubted in a comment by the Sanitary Inspection of the German army] with the intention to drop them over German territory after immobilization by low temperature (BAMA RH 12-9/v. 63:28, 1938.)

As you have been working in USAMRIID after WWII for some time, as Matt told me, you are aware of the importance of anthrax for BW purposes and I would like to ask you, therefore, whether you have any information an the alleged or other activities in this field performed in your country before WWII.

Thank you very much in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Erhard Geissler