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January 17, 1997

Matthew S. Meselson

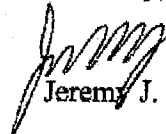
*FYI
Since you have your
own process*

Dear Matt:

The attached letter from FAS Chairman Carl Kaysen sets out a case for the prompt ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention which the Federation has long endorsed.

It would be helpful to us if you could personally endorse this ratification and authorize us to use your name in our efforts to secure Senate approval. If you can help us, please sign below and fax this page to FAS at (202) 675-1010 or mail it to FAS at 307 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002.

Sincerely,


Jeremy J. Stone

*I urge the prompt ratification of the CWC by the Senate
and authorize FAS to convey this fact to the Senate.*

Signature: *Matthew Meselson*

Title or Affiliation:
*Professor of Biochemistry
Harvard University
Cambridge MA*

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January 17, 1997

Senator X
X Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 10510

Dear Senator X,

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) will enter into force on April 29, 1997, following its ratification by the 65th signatory nation in November, 1996. It has not yet been ratified by the United States.

This treaty bans an entire class of weapons of mass destruction. It is a nonproliferation treaty that requires total elimination of chemical weapons stocks, prohibits chemical weapons-related activities, bans assistance for such activities, and bars trade with non-parties in certain relevant chemicals. This treaty denies us no option we would otherwise wish to exercise, for the United States has already renounced chemical weapons and is in the process of destroying them. The CWC is a critical instrument for universalizing this policy and preventing the further spread of chemical weapons.

With no military interest in chemical weapons, the United States can only gain by ratifying the treaty, regardless of its level of verification. US accession is necessary to give the CWC the force of an international norm against the possession of chemical weapons. That norm alone would be powerful, providing a basis for joint action to enforce compliance.

But, in addition, the CWC provides new tools for deterring and detecting chemical weapons proliferation. The value of its provisions will grow with time, as the treaty's incentives work to increase the number of adherents. The declaration and inspection requirements will improve our knowledge of possible proliferation activities, whether conducted by nations or terrorists. Access to declared and undeclared sites will make clandestine operations more difficult, risky and expensive; participating states will have the right to demand short-notice inspections of sites in other States Parties. The CWC's provisions constitute the most rigorous verification regime ever negotiated. At the same time, the treaty, and the proposed US implementing legislation, explicitly protect Constitutional rights and confidential and proprietary information.

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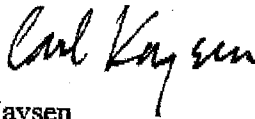
ex officio: *Robert M. Solow, Andrew Sessler

During negotiation of the treaty, senior officials of the US Chemical Manufacturers Association participated at the side of US government negotiators, and the chemical industry has consistently and publicly advocated ratification of the CWC. Now, if the treaty comes into force without US ratification, its constraints on the chemical exports of non-parties will penalize the US chemical industry. Should the Senate not ratify the Convention, the US government would also be excluded from a seat on the CWC's governing body, and from participating in the establishment of operating procedures. At the same time, as signatories we will be obliged to abide by the treaty's prohibitions.

Since the treaty was opened for signature in 1993, the Bush administration and 160 other countries have signed it, and all the major NATO allies of the United States have deposited their instruments of ratification, as have all other G-7 members.

The governing Council of the Federation of American Scientists recognizes the value of the CWC to the United States and the world, and urges the members of the Senate to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention without delay so that the United States, which played a leading role in developing this strong treaty, can participate fully in its implementation.

Yours sincerely,



Carl Kaysen
Chairman, FAS
Prof. emeritus, Defense and Arms Control Studies, MIT
Former Deputy National Security Advisor to the President

Individual FAS Sponsors, Officers and Council Members specifically endorsing ratification of the CWC include: