

27 January 1998

Ambassador Rolf Ekeus
Swedish Embassy
1501 M Street, NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Rolf:

Following our telephone conversation last week, here are the current draft and the prospectus of the convention to criminalize biological and chemical weapons under international law.

Julian and I believe that this may be a propitious time for a state or a group of states to bring a proposal for such a convention to the 6th Committee of the UN or to some other appropriate body. While encouraging government consideration of the current draft, we also believe that there are important issues that could usefully be addressed by a second unofficial workshop of individuals experienced in international law and CBW disarmament, a workshop with more broadly international representation than the one in which you participated last January.

We are therefore delighted that you thought you would be able to participate in the meeting that we are now planning. As I said on the telephone, the meeting is to be a Workshop on the International Criminalization of Chemical and Biological Weapons at the Lauterpacht Center for International Law at Cambridge University. It will begin with a working dinner on Friday, May 1, and end with dinner on Saturday, May 2.

In addition to Julian, me, and the Common Security Forum, the organizers are Professor James Crawford of the Lauterpacht Center and Professor Philip Heymann of Harvard. The number of participants will be small, about twenty.

One of the questions we will discuss at the workshop is how to define the offenses in language specific enough for equitable criminal proceedings while at the same time retaining the insurance against future technological developments provided by the General Purpose Criterion. Perhaps this can be done by keeping the GPC in Article II but revising Article I to add the element of hostile intent to the definition of the offenses.

Around the middle of February we will provide you with a draft agenda, a partial list of participants, and a request for your advice regarding who else might be included.

With best regards,

Matthew Meselson

enclosures:

- i) convention draft of 20 January 1998
- ii) prospectus