

PRIVATE

Geneva, 22 May 1964

Dear 

In early April there was a meeting in Geneva of some European members of Pugwash to prepare for the 13th Conference in Czechoslovakia in September. I was asked to co-ordinate the efforts for the preparation of a working document on biological warfare, as a contribution from the European countries for the September meeting.

In the United States last month I spoke with Matt Meselson of Harvard, who has attended a couple of the Pugwash meetings in the past, including the one in Dubrovnik. At the Dubrovnik meeting a group of us spoke about biological warfare, and we felt that a contribution could be made if a small group of Eastern and Western European countries, excluding the larger Powers, would agree to a pilot inspection scheme on biological warfare. Apparently such a voluntary inspection scheme already exists in countries which are members of the Western European Union. I am trying to find out more about this.

Meselson agreed to write a background document as a contribution from the U.S. group, and I told him that I would see what could be done from the point of view of Europe. I am therefore sending this letter to all those listed at the end, to solicit their collaboration.

What is needed for the September meeting is not another appreciation of the potential of biological warfare - a special study group would have to undertake this task over a period of time - but rather the requirements for a mutual inspection set-up in the form of a pilot study. The past experience of the Western European Union in this field would be useful, and if any of you can provide any information on this I would welcome it. (I understand that a microbiologist named Mustacci is in charge of the office concerned with this problem in the Western European Union).

After receiving your suggestions on this question, I would undertake to write a draft which would be circulated to the group and which would ultimately be submitted as a group paper for the September meeting. Professor Rotblat has indicated that documents for this meeting must be submitted to him by the end of June at the very latest, and I should therefore be grateful if you would write to me as soon as possible. The following points should be considered:

1. Countries to be involved in the pilot study
2. Composition of inspection teams (representatives of both Eastern and Western European countries would have to be members)
3. Methods of selecting establishments to be visited

4. Inspection procedures
5. Techniques of notification (including voluntary reporting)
6. Should we separate at this stage microbiological weapons from chemical weapons (nerve gases, etc.) from the standpoint of the pilot inspection scheme we are trying to formulate

I look forward to hearing from all of you. Would you kindly send your answers to me at my private home address, which is:

La Chenaie
La Pallanterie
Vésenaz
Geneva, Switzerland

I am sending this letter to all those shown below, whom I know to be interested in the Pugwash efforts in Europe in connection with biological warfare.

Sincerely yours,



Martin Kaplan

Matt,

*If your summer plans include Geneva, let me know. I shall be coming to the states in late August and back to Geneva before going to Czechoslovakia.
Best regards at home.*

Mr.

Dr A.A. Buzzati-Traverso, Naples
Dr C.-G. Hedén, Stockholm
Dr John Humphrey, London
Dr André Lwoff, Paris
Prof. Olé Maaløe, Copenhagen
Academician Ivan Malek, Prague
Dr M. Meselson, Boston
Prof. J. Rotblat, London