



THE JOINT STAFF
WASHINGTON, DC

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1938

Reply ZIP Code:
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5 February 1998

Doctor Matthew Meselson
Department of Molecular and
Cellular Biology
Harvard University
7 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Doctor Meselson,

I want to thank you for taking the time to forward your draft treaty criminalizing chemical and biological weapons. I enjoyed your class presentation to the Russian/U S generals very much, partly because I have responsibilities on the Joint Staff that deal with BW arms control. In particular, I found your insights and the candor with which you shared them to be stimulating.

I personally believe in the concept of criminalizing certain acts associated with BW/CW through an international forum, as a key and integral part of a comprehensive approach to eliminating this threat. I came to this realization during an Air Force sponsored "war game" actually meant to address a separate topic last summer. In this conference, I participated in a North African scenario during which a rogue state resorted to CW use against the troops of an allied country. I remember feeling that the aftermath of the conflict did not include measures meant to prevent a reoccurrence. The relevance to our situation in Iraq today is striking!

I am informally taking your concept to my colleagues to address what support, if any, the Joint Staff may be willing to give to this concept. I will let you know how I fare, and see if there is enough interest to make it worth your while to stop by during a future trip to Washington. My opinion is that this approach would not logically be championed in military circles, but it could certainly be supported by us if State, OSD, or the NSC wanted to push it.

Again, Dr. Meselson, thank you for the draft and your interest. I
admire your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.H. Griffiths Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

C.H. GRIFFITHS JR.
Captain, US Navy
Assistant Deputy Director for
International Negotiations, J-5