

Date: Fri, 23 Oct 1998 15:53:03 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Matthew S. Meselson" <msm@wjh.harvard.edu>
To: William Pak <wpak@bilbo.bio.purdue.edu>
Subject: Re: Supp letter for Will Carpenter

To whom it may concern:

Dr. Will D. Carpenter played a crucial role in the drafting and the subsequent ratification by the United States of the Chemical Weapons Convention. This is the treaty under which more than 110 states have agreed not to develop, produce, acquire, stockpile, transfer or use chemical or toxin weapons, an agreement backed up by strict provisions for international inspection and verification.

As a highly respected scientist-administrator of a major US chemical manufacturing company, Carpenter acted as liason between the industry and the US government in developing treaty provisions for effective yet minimally intrusive inspection of chemical plant facilities. Beyond this essential technical contribution to the creation of the Convention, Carpenter was highly effective in articulating to the chemical industry not only its own self-interest in supporting an effective prohibition of chemical and toxin weapons but also the broader security and humanitarian goals that the Chemical Weapons Convention is intended to serve.

Distinguished as a scientist-industrialist-statesman, Carpenter now serves as US member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague, the international operating body of the Chemical Weapons Convention and is on the Board of Advisors of the Harvard Sussex Program on CBW Armament and Arms Limitation. (As the Harvard Director of that program, I have worked closely with Carpenter since 1990.) In recognition of Carpenter's key role in the design and adoption of the Chemical Weapons Convention, he was awarded the 1992 Hilliard Roderick Prize in Science, Arms Control, and International Security of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Having served society in the best tradition of the scientist-citizen, Will Carpenter sets a worthy standard for university graduates about to commence their various careers. I enthusiastically support his nomination to receive an Honorary Degree.

Sincerely,

Matthew Meselson

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