

1 Stevens Close
Kew, Victoria
Australia 3101
8 December 1998

Dear Matthew,

Another year has passed, and it is time to wish you and your family the compliments of the season. I hope all goes well with you, and that the Harvard-Surrey project prospers. The situation in Iraq is worrying; my feeling is that if we can be assured of a valid continuous monitoring program it might be as well to terminate the inspections. Eight years is a long time, and we will never be sure that every weapon has been destroyed. I appreciate the significance of a thorough inspection for the credibility of the CWC, but I think we will always have to live with some degree of uncertainty. I would be interested in your views.

How is your Treaty going? I have not seen Bob Mathews recently, so have no news of it from him. The current controversy about Pinochet would be relevant. We have just had a meeting of IPPNW in Melbourne, and I have had some of the delegates staying with me.

I had a very interesting trip to China in September. I went with the Australian Institute of International Affairs, and we were looked after by our Chinese counterparts. The country is in the midst of very great change, much of it I think for the good. It is now largely a free enterprise system, but of course the Communist heirarchy still run the country. We visited Universities and Goverment departments, and also travelled widely. We visited the ThreeGorges dam site, and while it remains controversial, we were impressed by the studies that have taken place on the ecological effects etc.

With seasonal greetings and all good wishes,

