

Date: Sat, 1 Sep 2001 11:41:16 -0400 (EDT)
From: Matthew S. Meselson <msm@wjh.harvard.edu>
To: Matthew S. Meselson <msm@wjh.harvard.edu>

Date: Sat, 1 Sep 2001 11:35:40 -0400 (EDT)
From: Matthew S. Meselson <msm@wjh.harvard.edu>
To: Bill BROAD <wjbroad@nytimes.com>
Cc: broad@nytimes.com, Matthew S. Meselson <msm@wjh.harvard.edu>
Subject: revised playback

Dear Bill,

Many thanks for sending me this. Not surprisingly for an unstructured telephone interview, it says a couple of things that are definitely not my views. For example, I believe that we CAN effectively protect our forces in combat. This can be done with suitable physical equipment for individuals, vehicles and facilities. Please use the following, which is an accurate and considered statement of my view in the matter at hand:

Matthew S. Meselson, a Harvard biologist, warns that such programs cannot be kept secret and are likely to encourage expansion of biological weapons work abroad and only the illusion of protection at home. "Are you going to protect our security more than you are going to endanger it?" he asked. "that's the acid test."

Bill, if it fits in with your piece, I would add the following:

While supporting the treaty, Meselson also urges creation of international criminal law, modeled on the international convention on torture, applicable to any person, including government officials and leaders, who produces, acquires or uses biological weapons.

Sincerely,

Matt

(508) 540-0086 at Woods Hole until Tuesday morning.

PS: Since Pomerantsev reported his work in the open literature, I see no harm in our trying to reproduce it just as openly. Much less damaging than doing it secretly and then having the "secret" leak, as will almost inevitably happen.