

27 September 2001

Dr. Sasson Sofer
Head of the Department of International Relations
Faculty of Social Science
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
MT. Scopus, Jerusalem 91905, Israel

Dear Dr. Sofer:

I understand that Dr. Eitan Barak has applied for an appointment in your Department and wish to provide you with the following recommendation on his behalf.

Barak spent the last academic year as a Post Doctoral Fellow in the International Security Program at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, where I am Chair of Chemical and Biological Weapons Studies and also a member of the BCSIA Board of Directors. Because our interests coincide to a considerable degree I made it a point to keep in touch with him throughout his stay here. I attended his colloquium presentations and had several long discussions with him, on the problem of chemical weapons in the Mideast, on the history of chemical weapons, and on related subjects.

Barak impressed me as a careful scholar and, what is less usual, as a person with important original ideas and ways of thinking. I found Barak's oral presentations to be clear and logical and the manuscript he wrote while here to be cogent and closely reasoned. You will of course judge this for yourself, but I and my colleagues found Barak's analysis of the factors and possible trade-offs beneficial both to Israel and its neighbors in joining the Chemical Weapons Convention to be entirely novel and highly interesting. If his approach can be made to work as envisaged, it will be a major contribution. If not, it nevertheless stands as an exemplary attempt to go beyond slogans in the analysis of an important political-security issue.

In sum, I rate Barak highly as a researcher and potential teacher and recommend him without reservations of any kind.

Sincerely,

Matthew Meselson