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Date: Thu, 27 Feb 2003 09:34:15 -0500  
From: Forrest R. Frank <ffrank@ida.org>  
To: msm@wjh.harvard.edu  
Cc: Forrest Frank <Forrest922@aol.com>  
Subject: NSC Documentation for Nixon Biological Warfare Decision

Dear Prof. Meselson:

I'm not sure when you will see this note, but I wanted to thank you for a most stimulating and challenging discussion yesterday. Following our talk I went on the net and discovered that the National Security Archive at George Washington University has published a substantial number of documents that are exactly the documents I would have been seeking were I to try to replicate my earlier work. I hope to spend a little time in the next few weeks exploring these as well as the annotations as to their location, their provenance, and the citations contained within. We might be a lot further along the path towards reconstructing the historical foundations that I had previously imagined.

I am particularly interested in finding a useful and constructive avenue of approach to Dr. Kissinger for a different but equally important study. During the Yom Kippur War, the US and the Soviet Union came perilously close to a nuclear confrontation. I was told a great deal about this matter during my stint as a staff member in the period 1977-1979 for the House International Relations Committee. Indeed, I was the staff guy who worked with the Carter Administration on legislation to implement the Camp David Accords. I was in the hearing room to hear testimony at the Top Secret level from Secretary Vance and Deputy Defense Secretary Duncan on the importance of making an unlimited financial commitment to Egypt and Israel. The bottom line agreed to by all was simple--unlimited money to Egypt and Israel was cheaper reconstruction post nuclear war.

As we approach the 30th anniversary of this event, it occurred to me that a study exploring the facts, the hypotheses, and the perceptions of US and Soviet leaders with respect to the likelihood of nuclear war in late October, 1973, would be most valuable. It is crucial as we consider future commitments to the region.

Building a working relationship with Dr. Kissinger on an issue where he has gotten (with good reason in my view) high marks would pave the way towards an expanded relationship that might allow discussion of other topics where conventional views are more divided and less laudatory.

I hope that you have a wonderful vacation. I look forward to chatting with you and Josh Lederberg on this subject upon your return.

Cheers

Forrest

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