



Matthew Meselson <msmeselson@gmail.com>

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## Kissinger

5 messages

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Matthew Meselson <msmeselson@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 10, 2010 at 3:11 PM

To: nfergus@fas.harvard.edu

Bcc: Jeanne Guillemin <guillemin@mit.edu>

Dear Niall,

We once talked of Henry Kissinger's role in the decisions of President Nixon to renounce biological and toxin weapons. Important then, those decisions of 1969 and 1970 seem even wiser in retrospect, as our knowledge of fundamental life processes and how to manipulate them continues to advance.

So far as I know, Henry has never written or spoken on the record of this. Having been involved on the periphery as a friend and informal consultant to him during the relevant interagency reviews, I believe that Henry shares a good part of the credit for the President's decisions. In overseeing the two principal reviews (pursuant to NSSM59 on biological and chemical weapons overall and NSSM 85 specifically on toxins) Henry required each agency and department, despite their preferences, to argue both pros and cons for each option, effectively preserving all the issues for the President. The (unpublished) record shows that Henry's own recommendations to the President were to renounce biological weapons and, in the end, also to renounce toxin weapons.

If you are interested in talking with me about this aspect of Henry's life, let me know and we can arrange a time and place -- perhaps at your Cambridge office or, next door, at my office in the Fairchild Biochemistry building on Kirkland Street.

Best regards,

Matthew

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Matthew Meselson  
Thomas Dudley Cabot Professor of the Natural Sciences  
Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology

Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
Telephone (617) 495-2264

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**Niall Ferguson** <nfergus@fas.harvard.edu>  
To: Matthew Meselson <msmeselson@gmail.com>  
Cc: jrockett@hbs.edu, RNViets@aol.com

Thu, Feb 11, 2010 at 2:18 AM

Dear Matthew,

I would love to talk to you about this. I am still in the foothills of his early years, but I hope before the end of the semester we can find time to discuss this.

It's a hugely important subject.  
Best wishes,

Niall.

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**From:** Matthew Meselson [mailto:msmeselson@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2010 2:12 PM  
**To:** nfergus@fas.harvard.edu  
**Subject:** Kissinger

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Matthew Meselson** <msmeselson@gmail.com>  
To: Niall Ferguson <nfergus@fas.harvard.edu>

Sat, May 15, 2010 at 8:33 PM

Dear Niall,

I will be seeing Henry later this month partly in regard to his role in the Nixon CBW decisions. If you will be in Cambridge this week could you spare me a few minutes?

Best regards,

Matthew

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Ferguson, Niall** <nfergus@fas.harvard.edu>  
To: Matthew Meselson <msmeselson@gmail.com>

Sun, May 16, 2010 at 3:25 AM

Dear Matthew,

That would be a pleasure. Would you care to meet on Tuesday for a cup of tea — say at around 5pm?

Best wishes,

Niall.

On 5/15/10 8:33 PM, "Matthew Meselson" <[msmeselson@gmail.com](mailto:msmeselson@gmail.com)> wrote:

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Matthew

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Best wishes,

Niall.

From: Matthew Meselson [<mailto:msmeselson@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 2:12 PM

To: [nfergus@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:nfergus@fas.harvard.edu)

Subject: Kissinger

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Best regards,

Matthew

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Matthew Meselson <msmeselson@gmail.com>  
To: "Ferguson, Niall" <nfergus@fas.harvard.edu>  
Bcc: Janet Montgomery <jmontgom@fas.harvard.edu>

Sun, May 16, 2010 at 7:17 AM

Dear Niall,  
Tea at 5:00 would be fine. Where will I find you?  
Many thanks,  
Matthew

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