

*Chris*

Matthew Meselson &lt;msmeselson@gmail.com&gt;



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## proposal

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Matthew Meselson &lt;msmeselson@gmail.com&gt;

Wed, Feb 10, 2010 at 1:56 PM

To: president@cfr.org

Bcc: Jeanne Guillemin &lt;guillemin@mit.edu&gt;, msmeselson@gmail.com

**Dear Richard,**

**Some thirty years ago President Nixon on behalf of the United States renounced biological and toxin weapons. Important then, his decisions seem even wiser in retrospect, as our knowledge of fundamental life processes and how to manipulate them continues to advance.**

**Having been involved on the periphery as a friend and informal consultant to Henry Kissinger during the relevant NSC reviews, I believe that Henry shares a good part of the credit for the President's decisions. In overseeing the two principal interagency reviews (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 record shows that Henry's own recommendations to the President were to renounce biological weapons and, in the end, also to renounce toxin weapons.**

**In order to help give these important decisions some of the recognition they deserve and to do so while Kissinger's recollections can still be captured and placed on record, I wish to propose that the Council organize an event, possibly an informal luncheon, at which Henry would be invited to speak and enter into a discussion of the BW decisions of 1969-70. The first step, of course, would be to formulate a definite plan and then to ask Henry if he would like to go ahead with it. You or I could ask him and recently Tom Graham now with Kissinger Associates told me that he would be glad to talk to Henry about it if desired.**

**Among possible participants, I can think of a few old-timers involved in the reviews on Henry's staff and others from State, DoD and PSAC and two former Senate staffers who became ambassadors. In addition there are some senior officials still serving who have long dealt with BW arms control/non-proliferation policy and negotiation. One would also want to include interested working scholars.**

**If the idea appeals to you, I would be glad to seek some funding from MacArthur and Carnegie, although with no guarantee of success. Please give it some thought and let me know.**



**Best regards,**

**Matt**

With all good wishes,

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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