



Matthew Meselson <msmeselson@gmail.com>

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## Re: Dinner tonight

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Matthew Meselson <msmeselson@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 2, 2010 at 5:15 PM

To: jeg@mit.edu

### Just so long as you don't mind dining with a Senior Fellow...

On Tue, Mar 2, 2010 at 4:04 PM, Jeanne Guillemin <jeg@mit.edu> wrote:

M

Just as well. You are still getting over that cold. You can have a common room at 19 Chauncy. I'll pick you up later, maybe around 7:30, and we can eat cauliflower and eggplant.

Love,

J

On Tue, Mar 2, 2010 at 3:15 PM, Matthew Meselson <msmeselson@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear,

There is no senior common room dinner tonight.

Also, this from Hoffman

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **David Hoffman** <hoffmand@washpost.com>

Date: Tue, Mar 2, 2010 at 12:54 PM

Subject: Re: query

To: Matthew Meselson <msmeselson@gmail.com>

Dear Matthew,

Thank you very much. I am doing well -- the book continues to get a very positive reaction. I have been asked to speak widely, including at Los Alamos in a few weeks.

After the book was published, I also received a fascinating note from Larry Brilliant, who worked on the eradication of smallpox. He said he once had a chance to ask Gorbachev why he retained the biological weapons. The answer, he recalled, was, "After President Reagan said he would spend us (on nukes) into oblivion, my Generals told me we must have something in the Soviet 'back pocket.' "

Note, this is not to say that Gorbachev actually subscribed to the "back pocket" idea, just that this is what the generals told him. I have heard this before, and never believed it. Still, it is another interesting piece of the puzzle that I was unable to completely resolve in my research.

The entire Katayev archive has now been deposited at the Hoover Institution and opened for future scholars.

With gratitude, and respect,

David

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