

CONNECTICUT VALLEY SECTION

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY



MAR 27 1969

*Called on
3/31*

158 North Beacon Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

March 25, 1969

Professor Matthew S. Meselson
Department of Biology
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Meselson:

This is to confirm that the Section will hold a public symposium on the topic of chemical warfare on Saturday, May 3, 1969 in Hartford, Connecticut, and also to confirm our invitation to participate therein, of which you so kindly and generously indicated acceptance. In the following paragraphs I will deal with various items of information which you will wish to know, and other information which I would appreciate receiving from you, relative to the program and mechanical arrangements concerning your visit.

As to the symposium subject itself, it is our desire that the topic of chemical warfare be presented in a balanced and objective fashion, giving principal emphasis to exploring matters of fact in chemistry, medicine, military science, and political science, but not excluding matters of value judgment when they naturally arise. In addition, I would encourage that substantial attention be paid to the significance of incapacitating agents. However, I should like to introduce two boundary conditions, for the sole purpose of making the subject content of the symposium more homogeneous and amenable to consideration in a single day. Therefore, I exclude incendiary agents from consideration, such as napalm and white phosphorous, and, to the extent they can be so defined, I exclude all biological agents (including toxins). The extent to which this rule is enforced in the panel must, of course, be left to the discretion of the moderator. I note particularly that the biological agent exclusion may have to be stretched on occasion.

The actual participants in the program are as follows:

Introductory Speaker: Brigadier General Jacquard H. Rothschild (USA - Ret.), formerly Chief Chemical Officer, U. S. Army, known for his perceptive analysis and occasional criticism of U. S. methods and policy. He will be asked to lay the introductory groundwork for the various aspects of the subject that will later be examined by the panel: historical, technical, and political (he will also participate in the panel).

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Panel:

Moderator: Dr. Ivan L. Bennet, Vice President for Health Affairs, New York University, and Director of the N.Y.U. Medical Center, formerly Deputy Scientific Advisor to the President, and currently a representative to the Geneva conference on chemical warfare. He will be asked to outline the issues the panel will explore, to introduce each panel member as he speaks, and to moderate the subsequent discussion among the panel members and with the audience.

General Rothschild. In his capacity as panel member, he will be asked to provide information on the chemical nature and military characteristics of the more important chemical agents in the U. S. arsenal, to the extent permitted by military security, giving substantial emphasis to incapacitating agents.

Mr. W. Bowman Cutter, Chief of the Advanced Weapons Technology Division, U. S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. He will be asked to discuss the international implications of our pursuing or not pursuing increasing emphasis in the research, development, and stock-piling of chemical agents, and of adopting policies relative to the employment of chemical weapons.

I have taken the liberty of placing you last in the order of presentations and would ask you to give your views on the current and long range consequences of the continuance of our research and development program in this area and our search for an acceptable policy to permit the use of these agents.

For the purposes of printing a program, I would appreciate receiving from you an actual title for your talk, in words that you feel will be best representative of what you wish to say. I should add that while I have structured a program in which I have to some extent predetermined your contribution, I do not mean this to be that binding upon you, should you prefer to give a somewhat different direction to your prepared text.

The physical plan of the program will be as follows: We are most anxious, first of all, to have you join in dinner the previous evening, Friday, May 2. Presumably this would be scheduled for about 7:00 P.M. This will serve the purpose of allowing the participants to become acquainted with each other (although I gather many know each other already), and will permit a few of the officers of the Section and their wives to have the pleasure of your acquaintance and of offering you their hospitality. If you can come to dinner then we will, of course, assume that you will spend the night in Hartford in hotel accommodations which we will arrange.

On Saturday we will ask attendees of the symposium to come for registration at 10:00 A.M. I will start the program about 10:30 with some opening remarks and will then introduce General Rothschild. The General's talk should last about 30 minutes. The floor will then be opened to questions, and I will allow the discussion to proceed for about one-half hour. We will break for lunch about noon. Between 1:00 and 1:30 we will have our annual Student Awards Ceremony.

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The symposium will resume not later than 2:00 P.M. I will make whatever additional remarks are necessary and will then introduce Dr. Bennet, the moderator for the afternoon. Dr. Bennet will take ten or fifteen minutes to lay the groundwork for the presentations of the panel members and the rules by which the panel will be operating, including the discussion period. Each panel member will then make his presentation, probably in the order given above, and will be afforded not more than thirty minutes for this purpose. Questions will not be accepted from the audience during or between these presentations, though Dr. Bennet may wish to allow some clarifying comments within the panel. Dr. Bennet will then entertain questions among the panel members for some reasonable period of time and will then open the floor to questions by the audience. With Dr. Bennet's consent we will try accepting questions verbally, rather than written, even though it is a topic on which feelings run high. I do this on the advice of General Rothschild who observes that an important flavor is lost with written questions. Dr. Bennet will be responsible for determining the degree of argument acceptable to the meeting. I visualize that the program should conclude about 5:00 P.M.

At this time, if you have immediate transportation available to you for departure, we will bid you good-bye. But if you are obliged to stay in Hartford for some period before you leave, some of us in the Section would be delighted if you would join us at supper before departure.

We will assume that you will make your own travel arrangements to arrive in Hartford, and to depart, and will inform us accordingly. We will assure adequate transportation for you within the city. Moreover, we would be very pleased to reimburse you for all travel expenses that you incur for this trip, if you are free to and willing to accept such reimbursement.

It is our intention to generate a considerable amount of publicity for this symposium, so that we may have an attendance of 500 persons, perhaps well over. In addition, to develop further community involvement with this program we have invited a few local organizations to act as cosponsors with us. Although they have not yet responded, I list them: the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (local section), the Connecticut Academy of General Practice, and the Connecticut State Medical Society. Also, representative church groups within the state are interested to participate. For this and other reasons, it will be desirable for us, at very least, to audio tape the proceedings. Moreover, Channel 24, our educational television station, has indicated an interest in video taping all or part of the program. Therefore, I would appreciate your indicating to me your willingness to have your prepared and unprepared remarks so recorded. The record will, of course, be used solely for the purposes of education and the public welfare.

From the above you will see that there are several questions on which I will need your answer. Specifically, they are as follows:

1. What title do you wish to be given to your prepared remarks?
2. Do you plan to require visual projection equipment, and what type?
3. Can you please include whatever prepared biographical material you have and a glossy print photograph of yourself?

WI
NO
Send biog.
& photo.

4. Please let me know whether or not we may have the pleasure of your company at dinner the preceding evening (which will also imply that you will be staying the night in Hartford, and we will therefore obtain a room for you).

yes

Arrive approx 7 PM Friday 2 by auto.

5. In any case, please let me know as precisely as you can at this time what your travel plans are to be, with particular attention to arrival and departure times, so that we can provide you with local transportation.

Depart Sat eve. time uncertain.

6. Please indicate whether you would care to accept reimbursement of your travel expenses.

yes

7. Please let me have your agreement to your various remarks being both audio and video recorded for the purposes stated above.

O.K.

Your early response to these questions would be most helpful to those of us planning this program.

Beyond all of these considerations, it simply remains for me to express again my deep appreciation for your willingness to participate in this highly controversial program, and to indicate that it would be my pleasure to receive from you any suggestions you might have that would serve to improve its content or mechanical arrangements.

I hope to hear from you shortly. If there will be some delay, a telephone call to me at A/C 203: 565-3389 from a secretary or assistant would be very desirable.

Very truly yours,

David M. Wetstone
Spring Meeting Coordinator

DMW:bhs

- cc: Dr. Speros P. Nemphos
Section Chairman
- Dr. Forrest H. Norris
Section Secretary
- Dr. John J. Hinchin
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