

7 July 1992

Dear Volodya,

I have just e-mailed to you at Evanston a copy of my recent e-mail to Sergei in Ekaterinburg. Anyway, here is a fax copy too! Although I believe that Campbell will have left Ekaterinburg before you arrive, I hope that Sergei will be able to meet him.

By the time you are ready to leave Ekaterinburg, Ilona Nikolaevna Nikonova will have completed most or perhaps all of the interviews she is doing for us and will also have prepared english translations of them. May I ask you please to obtain from Sergei copies of the original russian and also the english translations and to bring them back with you on your return to the U.S. and post them to me here at Harvard? The originals should be left in Ekaterinburg for safekeeping.

Although we learned a great deal about the anthrax outbreak, including the important fact that most or all of the cases were airborne, not food borne, one of the most important unanswered questions is whether there was anthrax among animals preceding the human cases. Some public health officials including Viktor Vasilevich Romanenko, Assistant Chief of the Sverdlovsk Oblast SES, told us that there was animal anthrax in Sysertskiy rayon in March 1979, even before the middle of March. But others said that cases of animal anthrax did not occur until April, when the human cases began. We understand that for various reasons an outbreak of animal anthrax may not come to the attention of medical or even veterinary officials until some time after its actual occurance. But making allowance for this factor, what can be said with confidence about the timing of the first cases of animal anthrax cases, especially in Sysertskiy rayon?

Along with a hard copy of this fax, I enclose some photographs to give to Sergei.

Best wishes,

Matthew Meselson