

SALK

July 30, 1966

Dr. Jonas Salk
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies
Post Office Box 9499
San Diego, California

Dear Jonas:

I enclose the letter concerning chemical and biological warfare which I discussed with you on the telephone today. Several people have played a part in drafting the letter and so far, Paul Doty, John Edsall, Arthur Kornberg, and Keith Porter have agreed to sign it.

We are greatly troubled by the recent erosion of traditional restraints on the use of toxic weapons. We feel that a situation exists in which their use may continue to expand, so weakening the habit of restraint that CB weapons will come into quite general use in future conflicts.

We feel that in an area so sensitive to public opinion as this, a strong statement by influential persons would stand a good chance of halting the present trend. Therefore we are seeking to obtain the support of about twenty prominent scientists, including yourself. When this is accomplished, we shall arrange to have the letter delivered to the White House, probably in the first week of September. The letter would not be publicized at that time. However, several weeks after its delivery, we shall consider releasing it to the press and at the same time opening it for signatures by professional scientists generally.

Within the next few days, I will telephone to provide you with certain additional information and to learn whether you wish to join us in this venture.

Sincerely yours,

Math

Matthew Meselson

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Me

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