

February 11, 1969

Professor Bernard T. Feld
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Dear Bernie,

I am replying to your letter of February 3 asking for suggestions for the Agenda of the Sochi Conference. The UN General Assembly Study of Chemical and Biological Weapons is now underway and the subject has been introduced at the ENDC discussions by the submission of the British Working Paper. Also, the Soviet Union and a number of other countries have specifically included CBW as a topic for discussion at the ENDC.

It seems to me that the Sochi Conference could make a useful contribution to the outcome of international discussions of CBW if a way could be found to upgrade the representation of various governments in the CBW field. The Pugwash Continuing Committee might be able to accomplish this by specifically requesting the participation of responsible officials, at least from the major countries. Another approach would be to send specific invitations to selected members of the General Assembly Study Committee. I enclose a copy of their names.

I imagine that Zuckerman has considerable influence with his governments. Whether this can be said for any of the others, I do not know. Nevertheless, I think it would be a good idea to invite Bennett Reutov and possibly others. Reutov has already had some connection with the Pugwash-Sipri effort, having attended a Sipri meeting in Stockholm. Bennett has not been similarly involved. With respect to the United States, I think the best thing would be to invite Ivan Bennett and also to try, through Henry Kissinger, to obtain a fairly high level representative from the United States to observe the entire Sochi meeting. The latter person could then be involved in some of the CBW discussions.

While you are in Moscow, I urge you to try to convince the Russians to provide themselves with good representation on CBW at the Sochi Conference. Reutov is an intelligent and friendly person. I have no idea how much influence he has.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson

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Encl.