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E007

*** Current Classification *** ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
*** Current Handling Restrictions *** ~~EXDIS~~

Description

*Release to
req. only*

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<<<<*** SAS DOCUMENT HEADER ***>>>

DOC_NBR= 86STATE267418

FILM= D860648-0129

DATE= 26 AUG 86

TYPE= TE

FROM= SECSTATE WASHDC

DRAFTER= PM/TMP:BTUA

OFFICE= ORIGIN SS

TO= MOSCOW
GENEVA

CHANNEL= n/a

ORIGHAND=~~EXDIS~~

ORIGPHAND= n/a

ORIGCLASS=~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ORIGPCLASS= n/a

EO= (OADR)

SUBJECT= VISIT TO MOSCOW OF PROFESSOR MATTHEW MESELSON

REFERENCE= n/a

CONTROL_NBR= n/a

ENCLOSURE= n/a

LOCATOR= TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

ERRORS= N/A

CONCEPTS= SCIENTIST, INVITATION, S&T COOPERATION, SCIENTIFIC VISIT, CHEMICAL WEAPON, YELLOW RAIN

TAGS= PARM, UR, US, (MESELSON, MATTHEW)

DECLASSIFIED

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir. *MG*
 Release () Excise () Deny Declassify
Date 2/22/99 Exemption _____

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ORIGIN SS-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 SSO-00 /000 R

DRAFTED BY: PM/TMP:BTUA
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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PARM, UR, US
SUBJECT: VISIT TO MOSCOW OF PROFESSOR MATTHEW MESELSON

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ENTIRE TEXT.
2. HARVARD UNIVERSITY BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY PROFESSOR MATTHEW MESELSON TOLD PM/TMP CW ACTION OFFICER AUGUST 25 THAT HE PLANNED TO LEAVE AUGUST 26 FOR MOSCOW WHERE HE HAS BEEN INVITED FOR MEETINGS WITH MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS "TO DISCUSS NATURAL OUTBREAKS OF ANTHRAX."
3. MESELSON, WHO WAS INVOLVED AS A CONSULTANT IN 1980 IN ANALYZING U.S. INFORMATION ON THE APRIL 1979 SVERDLOVSK INCIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY HAS BEEN A VOCAL CRITIC OF U.S. YELLOW RAIN CHARGES, SAID HE HAS BEEN SEEKING SUCH DISCUSSIONS SINCE 1983. MESELSON TRIED AGAIN THIS YEAR THROUGH PUGWASH CONFERENCE OFFICIAL MARTIN KAPLAN WHO APPROACHED SOVIET CD REP VIKTOR ISSRAELYAN. THE SOVIETS

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DID NOT RESPOND UNTIL SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, WHEN SOVIET EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY SERGEY I. KISLYAK CONTACTED MESELSON TO SAY HE WAS BEING INVITED TO TALK TO SOVIET

MOH SCIENTISTS. WHEN MESELSON SAID HE WOULD NOT GO TO MOSCOW UNLESS IT WAS TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT HE HAD EARLIER PROPOSED, KISLYAK SAID HE THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE THE CASE. AFTER CHECKING, HE CALLED MESELSON BACK SAME DAY TO CONFIRM THAT THIS WAS WHAT MOSCOW INTENDED.

4. MESELSON SAID HE WOULD RETURN TO THE U.S. AUGUST 31

AND OFFERED TO PROVIDE US A READOUT OF HIS DISCUSSIONS.
HE ALSO ASKED FOR EMBASSY MOSCOW'S PHONE NUMBER, AND WE
EXPECT HE WILL CONTACT DCM DURING HIS STAY IN THE USSR.
MESELSON SAID HE WANTED TO BE HELPFUL AND HAD NO PLANS TO
TELL THE MEDIA ABOUT HIS VISIT. WHITEHEAD

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