

WORLD HEALTH
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MAY 5 1969

In reply please refer to: N64/372/31

2 May 1969

Prière de rappeler la référence:

Personal and confidential

Dear Matt and John,

The final version of the WHO submission to the UN Consultant Group now has to be in their hands on 21 May.

As you know, we had planned to fly to Prague together in the afternoon of that day, but I feel that this is going to be too tight a schedule for me now, as it will not give me time to incorporate any modifications proposed during our meetings of 19 and 20 May to prepare the report in its final form. I shall therefore have to postpone my departure until early Thursday morning. There is a plane that leaves Geneva at 06:25 hrs., reaching Prague at 08:55 hrs.

I assume that both of you wish to continue with the original plan (leaving on Wednesday). If not, would you let me know, and I will alter your reservations to Thursday.

Because of the volume of material we have to cover it would be advisable ~~to~~ to start the meeting of consultants on Monday 19 May, at 9:30 a.m. This meeting will be attended by yourselves, Perry Robinson, Fisher (biochemist, Edinburgh), Schutzenberger (mathematician, Paris) and Jerne. On the following day, the 20th, the meeting will include the WHO secretariat staff who have worked on the WHO submission. Perry Robinson, Fisher, Schutzenberger and Victor Sidel will be with me next week assisting in the calculations that will be incorporated in the draft of the WHO report which I shall send to you during the week of 12 May for study before you come to Geneva.

... I am enclosing a copy of the draft just completed by the UN Group of Consultant Experts on CBW which has just finished one of its meetings in Geneva. I must ask that this draft be kept in strictest confidence. The WHO submission will be sent to the UN Group on 21 May for them to incorporate whatever material they wish at their final session beginning in New York on 2 June. Some preliminary material provided by WHO has been used and they are awaiting with interest the additional WHO material we shall provide. I have been informed that from the general tenor of discussions they may not modify very much the contents of their present draft except for editorial changes and technical corrections. I was unable to attend the discussions.

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Dr John Humphrey
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National Institute for Medical Research

Professor Meselson and Dr Humphrey
N64/372/31

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You will note that nothing very much new has emerged thus far in the UN draft and that political considerations, mostly well-meaning, have dominated the content although misleading statements, especially of quantitative effects, are made. The WHO submission will not be circulated for the present outside the UN Group. This will give us more time later on to prepare as effective, sound and factual appraisal as possible.

Please let me know when you plan to arrive in Geneva. *The room is waiting*

— view on garden and lake. Come as early as you can

Sincerely yours,



Martin Kaplan

Matt,

Our WHO analysis promises to yield some very interesting data. Much more meaty than the UN generalities. After this I must tackle the ^{general} ~~(not CBM)~~ problem of environment (no less), and the chemical mutagens will come into focus.

cc: Dr Jerne