

HOLD UNTIL AFTER NEWS CONFERENCE 2:00 PM Tuesday February 14, 1967.  
Cabinet Room, Hotel Willard, Pennsylvania Ave. and Fourteenth St., Washington, D.C.

President Lyndon B. Johnson  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

We have the honor to transmit to you with this letter a petition from more than 5,000 of our professional colleagues seeking to bring to your personal attention the need to safeguard and strengthen the world-wide restraints and prohibitions against the use of chemical and biological weapons.

The reasons for our concern and some recommendations for practical measures are outlined in the petition, which bears the signatures of many of the foremost leaders in American science and medicine.

We wish at this time to note what appears to us to be an additional opportunity for constructive action. This stems from unexpected progress at the United Nations several weeks after our petition was circulated. On December 5, 1966, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a resolution inviting all States to accede to the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous, or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva in June 1925, and calling upon all States to observe the principles and objectives of the Geneva Protocol. We are particularly pleased that the United States supported this resolution in the United Nations.

The United States was the prime initiator of the Geneva Protocol in 1925. Since then, although we have not yet acceded to the Protocol, almost every other nation of the world has done so. We recommend to your favorable consideration that the United States now accede to the Geneva Protocol and thereby firmly establish its stand on these matters.

It is our hope, Mr. President, that the various United States policies and programs referred to in our petition and in this letter will be subjected to a far-sighted examination, aimed at insuring that progress in biological and medical science retains its traditional dedication to the peaceful development of mankind.

Respectfully,

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Konrad E. Bloch, Department of Chemistry, Harvard University  
James F. Crow, Department of Medical Genetics, University of Wisconsin  
William Doering, Sterling Chemistry Laboratory, Yale University  
Paul Doty, Department of Chemistry, Harvard University  
Freeman J. Dyson, the Institute for Advanced Study  
John T. Edsall, The Biological Laboratories, Harvard University  
Bernard Feld, Department of Physics, Mass. Inst. of Technology  
Irwin C. Gunsalus, Department of Chemistry, University of Illinois  
Robert Hofstadter, Department of Physics, Stanford University  
Arthur Kornberg, Department of Biochemistry, Stanford University Medical School  
Fritz Lipmann, Rockefeller University  
Robert B. Livingston, Department of Neurosciences, U. Cal, San Diego  
Matthew Meselson, Biological Laboratories, Harvard University  
Severo Ochoa, New York University School of Medicine  
Ray D. Owen, Division of Biology, California Institute of Technology  
Keith R. Porter, Biological Laboratories, Harvard University  
Charles Price, Department of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania  
Eugene Rabinowitch, Department of Botany, University of Illinois  
E. L. Tatum, Rockefeller University  
George Wald, Biological Laboratories, Harvard University  
Paul Dudley White, Boston