

**WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION**



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In reply please refer to:  
Prière de rappeler la référence:

8 May 1969

Dear Matt,

I have been giving some thought to your telephone call last night, which I hope was not inordinately expensive. Robert Neild has the most direct access to Solly Zuckerman, and I shall try to get in touch with him by telephone during the next several days. Robert may be well enough by now to take some action in the matter. We have until the end of the month to establish this contact, although I know that Zuckerman will be in Moscow for several days beginning early next week to discuss the UN draft. I shall therefore try to act quickly.

I do not think there will be any trouble in holding the line on incapacitating biological agents. We are in a much more difficult position with respect to non-lethal gases for a variety of reasons you well know. One of them, which may not have occurred to you, is that national authorities may be extremely reluctant to tie their hands with respect to using such agents for local riot control purposes; because should they continue to accept the interpretation that the Protocol includes non-lethal gases it would give students and other minority groups a perfect handle for protest that their own government has outlawed the use of such weapons by international treaty and continues to use them on local groups. Our phrase to overcome this difficulty, "banning the use in international conflicts", may not be strong enough to overcome this objection.

We shall try to ginger up the WHO submission as best we can with respect to medical and public health effects of such agents, but we may not be able to say too much. We shall discuss this further when you are here. I shall send you the draft of the WHO submission early next week. It has proved to be one of the most difficult things I have undertaken.

Please let me know the time of your arrival so that I can pick up you and Sarah at the airport in Geneva.

Yours,

Martin Kaplan

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