



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

13 May 1969

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Dear Professor Messelson:

Thank you for sending along a copy of your review on my book. I heard that there was one but had not had a chance to take a look at it.

I think that most of the points which you made in the review were very well taken. I am not at all certain that I would suggest the use of possible lethal agents in enemy base camps today. What I was thinking of was persistency rather than lethality -- specifically mustard. I was not precise in this and you were certainly justified in presuming VX. Further, I assumed, but did not state, fair warning to the enemy that measures had been taken to deny access to base camp areas. Put into these terms, I am not at all sure that the escalatory risk of enemy retaliation is as you state. My error, however, was not stating what I meant with sufficient precision.

I was fascinated by your obvious sentiment that I had loaded my analysis to influence against US ratification of the Geneva Protocol. I can assure you that this was not intended. In looking back quickly through the various passages, I really am not certain that the bias is present. On page 106, line 10, I find my use of the qualifier "coldly rational." This, I believe, is a poor choice of words on my part in that there was no lack of pro gas propaganda evident in Congress.

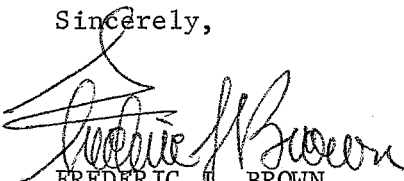
The last thought that I would offer is a certain note of disappointment that one of the elements of the record which attracted me particularly did not seem to strike you. That is, the terrible problems of cross-cultural communication when attempting to deter action. The case in the book was, of course, Japan which never really seemed to be communicating on deterrence with the other major powers. It seemed to me that Japan pursued a wholly irrational policy, but, mine is not a Japanese perspective. That, of course, is the problem.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness in sending me your review. I will be departing for Vietnam very shortly, therefore, will not be able

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to take you up on your very kind offer. I can assure you, however, that I will be looking for Hearings on ratification of the Gas Protocol with a great deal of interest.

Sincerely,



FREDERIC J. BROWN
Lieutenant Colonel, Armor

Professor M. Messelson
The Biological Laboratories
Harvard University
16 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

BIOGRAPHY OF ^{the} FREDERICK ~~W.~~ J. BROWN

- 1956 Graduated from West Point
- 1957-59 Third Armored Division
- 1960 Studied French and German at Army Language School
- 1960-61 Advanced Officer Course - Fort Knox
- 1961-63 Civilian Graduate Study - Geneva, Switzerland
M.A. Ph.D. - Political Science
- 1963-66 Assistant Professor of Social Science - West Point
- 1966-67 Vietnam, G3 Plans, First Infantry Division -
S3 Second Battalion, Second Infantry (Mechanized)
- 1967 Armed Forces Staff College - Norfolk, Virginia
- 1968 Office of the Special Assistant for Counter-Insurgency
and Special Activities of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Presently en route to Vietnam
Assistant Vice-Chief of Staff, First Squadron,
First Infantry - Present Rank, Lieutenant Colonel

ARMOR BRANCH
SERV. # 073-622

TRANSIENT DETACHMENT OFFICE
APO SAN, PAN. 96307

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