

James Russell Wiggins . . . Carlton Cove . . . Brooklin, Maine 04616

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AUG 1 1969

Dear Dr. Meselson:

I thoroughly enjoyed the meeting at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and I am grateful to you for including me in the group.

I heard Laird's statement on stockpiling CBW material and I am sorry that he anticipated the review committee's work, but I am sure that he has not said the last word on this subject.

I think the two speakers who got off on the idea of prohibiting the use of tear-gas internally would really lead us down a blind alley. The countries have always made a distinction between weapons permitted under international law and the means used to suppress internal sedition and uprisings.

I was interested in the distinction between the use of tear-gas as an alternative to more violent weapons and its employment as a supplement to more violent weapons.

I will be curious to know if you think it would be possible to devise any kind of a convention that would permit the humane use and outlaw the inhumane one. There are situations in which the alternative to the use of an incapacitating agent is the use of a lethal agent. In civil uprisings, certainly, where a large mob threatens to overwhelm a small security force, that force is going to respond with whatever weapons it has available, with tear-gas if it can, with machine guns if it must. No doubt there are military applications of the same kind.

I left the meeting perfectly clear on the matter of biological warfare and quite convinced in the matter of lethal gases. I am still troubled about dealing with the suppressive and incapacitating agents like tear-gas.

Sincerely,



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