

August 15, 1969

Mr. Arnold Brustin
Legislative Assistant
Office of Senator Nelson
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Brustin:

This is in response to your request for my comments on the CBW amendment to the 1970 Military Procurement Authorization Act.

My overall reaction is to welcome the very clear intention of the Senate to place United States CBW programs under continuing review. The present amendment and the earlier action of the Armed Services Research and Development Subcommittee have clearly set the stage for Congressional discussion of such underlying questions as: What specific military requirements do we have in each category of CBW weaponry: lethal biologicals, incapacitating biologicals, lethal chemicals, and incapacitating chemicals? Can we renounce the first use of any or all of these weapons? How should our CBW programs and policies be designed to minimize the proliferation of CB weapons to other countries? I gather from the Senate debate that these and other fundamental questions will come under careful examination not too long from now.

Regarding the CBW amendment itself, I have several questions and comments that may be of some use in your continued consideration of these matters. They are as follows.

Subsection A

To what part of Congress will the Secretary of Defense submit the required semi-annual reports?

The reports are to cover R,D,T, and E and procurement of agents. Was it the intention of the sponsors that the reports not also cover munitions, apart from agents, such as spray tanks, bombs, rocket warheads, etc? Was it also

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the intention to omit spending for maintenance and for construction of facilities?

Subsection B

What is meant to be included under "delivery systems specifically designed to disseminate..."? For example, is the language meant to include the procurement of biological or lethal chemical agents themselves? Also, is it meant to include warheads and munitions specifically designed for CB weapons but which might be attached to delivery systems of more general usage? For example, would the amendment prevent procurement of chemical warheads for the Honest John rocket or the Sergeant missile? Also, does this subsection have any bearing on expenditures or filling munitions already on hand with biological or lethal chemical agents that may now be in storage or may be produced in future?

Subsection C1, D1, and D2

Are the words "lethal chemical or biological agents" meant to include incapacitating biological agents as well as lethal ones?

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson

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cc; Miss Heide Wolfe
Mr. Larry Smith