

August 25, 1969

Mr. James Russell Wiggins
Sedgewick, Maine 04676

Dear Mr. Wiggins:

It was a great pleasure to see you again at the Academy meeting last month. Your proposal for straight-forward renunciation of germ weapons was, in my mind, the highlight of the day. The president who announces that policy will do himself proud. The only thing I can see that might tarnish it would be then to proceed with a greatly stepped up program for the utilization of so-called "non-lethal" gases in regular combat. I agree with you completely that the police use of tear gas for domestic purposes has nothing to do with the important and difficult problem of its use in war. The enclosed article from the current issue of the British magazine New Scientist restates some of the arguments we made last month and adds some new information.

The Army has recently asked for a one month delay in the preparation of its papers for the Security Council review. Apparently new guidelines are to be issued to the paper writers. The most optimistic speculation I have heard is that the Army has decided to stop asking for a biological warfare capability of any kind.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson

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Encl.