

August 28, 1969

Dr. Martin Dworkin  
Department of Microbiology  
University of Minnesota  
1060 Mayo Memorial Building  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear Dr. Dworkin:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your excellent statement put into the Congressional Record by CongressmandFraser. I certainly agree with you that for the U.S., biological warfare research is a boondoggle. We do not need biological weapons and it is totally misleading to suppose that medical defense against them is effective. In any case, almost all defense work would be better if done without secrecy in this field. However, I would be very much alarmed if any of the non-nuclear nations decided to develop a biological warfare capability. Although we have no military requirement for such weapons, they could pose a very nasty threat against us if the prevailing international sense of proprieties changes so radically as to permit lesser powers to acquire things like germ weapons. I don't think we are anywhere near such a situation today but I think it is important that we comport ourselves so as to keep it ever from happening.

For your interest I enclose a copy of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on chemical and biological warfare of last April and also a copy of an article on "non-lethal" gas in war that appeared in the British magazine New Scientist.

I time we hope to produce an edited copy of the Proceedings of the Salk Institute-American Academy meeting on chemical and biological warfare. I will see that you get a copy when it is available.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson

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Encl.