

CBW

September 18, 1969

251 Lawrence St.
New Haven, Conn.
06511

SEP 19 1969

Dear Dr. Meselson,

Enclosed is the herbicide write up with some recommendations. I've shown it to Dr. Galston and he has given it his approval. I hope that I've left out enough of the argumentativeness that I could have put in.

I was unable to get the other manuscript on escalation in World War I finished in time to include it with this manuscript, but it shall follow by a day. I felt the herbicide manuscript was more important.

I was at the Law School today to talk to Prof. M.S. McDougal who is extremely well known on issues of international law. When I posed the question of herbicides to him in relation to the Geneva Protocol, he did what many extremely-well-knowns seem to do. He drew down from the shelf his own book to see what he said about the Protocol in it. It turns out that he doesn't think too much of it (or the civilian vs. military distinction). He says the language is too ambiguous and a new one ought to be made. I pointed out the apparent power of the Protocol in history, but he kind of scoffed at the notion just because of such cases as CS and defoliants. Besides, he said, isn't it better to use gases which are humane? I suggested that nerve gas could kill just about anything above a crayfish in less than a minute, and that I felt that all steps should be taken to avoid providing anybody with the opportunity to do so. He sympathized with my initiative, but I've had the feeling that he's still operating in the late 50's in relation to gas. Perhaps that was when his book was written.

I have a favor to ask of you. I don't know what my future may bring me, but I may have need for a personal evaluation of my abilities, particularly in areas outside of biology. I would appreciate it if you would give a few thoughts concerning what abilities you may feel I possess, and in a spare moment jot down a few notes in the form of a letter of recommendation. If you could then lodge this letter with your secretary, I could write to her and have a copy sent to whomever may have an interest. I would appreciate this favor very much. I will also have the second manuscript in the mail tomorrow.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Cooke