

November 26, 1969

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Henry,

I enclose a copy of the telegram I sent to the President today. I have tried to express my great admiration and respect for the courage and far-sighted wisdom of his decisions.

Clearly there is some remaining question about just how the Protocol is to be interpreted. As the issue is developed before the Senate, I would hope we can take the position that (1) the Protocol excludes the use of all chemicals in war when used for inflicting casualties on an enemy (2) the Protocol does not exclude the use of ~~riot~~ control agents by domestic police or its similar use for humane purposes in war. This is quite close to the concept embodied in Article 48 of the Draft Treaty submitted by the British to the League Disarmament Convention in 1933.

Maybb this wording can help provide a uniform interpretation of the Protocol. The enclosed memorandum gives some additional background.

The New York Times today called me a close friend and neighbor of yours in Cambridge. I would be very glad if it were true but I don't even know where you lived in Cambridge. I seriously regret any embarrassment the Times' dramatization may have caused ~~down~~ there.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson

MM:ls

Encl. *telex*  
*Prep Comm.*

November 26, 1969

President Richard M. Nixon  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Your extraordinarily wise and courageous decision to abandon all preparations for offensive biological warfare, to commit the United States never to initiate the use of lethal or incapacitating chemical weapons and your historic action in submitting the 1925 Geneva Protocol to the Senate serve the best interests of our own country and of all mankind. I hope that the United States can now exert its leadership to obtain similar renunciations of germ weapons by all other nations, to persuade all nations that have not yet ratified the Protocol to do so, and to agree upon a clear-cut and workable interpretation of the Protocol that will ensure its uniform application by all.

Matthew Meselson