

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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In reply please refer to: N64/372/31  
Prière de rappeler la référence:

28 November 1969

Dear Professor Meselson,

... Many of the consultants who prepared the attached report came to Geneva at different times during the past few months to revise parts of the interim report prepared in May; others sent their comments by correspondence. Significant additions have been the incorporation of anti-plant agents (in Annex 1) and a rewriting of "Long-term Effects" in the text of the report to give more emphasis to delayed and ecological effects.

The report has been sent to U Thant for possible use during the discussions on CBW at the current UN General Assembly. We shall submit the report to the WHO Executive Board scheduled to start its meeting on 20 January 1970, after which the report will be published by WHO and released to the public. Until then please consider it as a "restricted" document.

I should greatly appreciate your reading the report carefully. Send me any comments you might have so that suitable corrections can be made before the report is printed.

Dr Candau joins me in expressing great appreciation for your efforts and co-operation in preparing the report. We consider it a highly valuable contribution to an adequate understanding by WHO Member States and the public in general of the CBW problem, and to measures for its resolution.

Sincerely yours,

Martin Kaplan

*Matt,*

*Note attached copy of letter to  
Bill Epstein. and cable  
M.*

Professor Matthew Meselson  
Harvard University  
The Biological Laboratories  
16 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge  
Massachusetts 02138  
USA

... ENCL.

N64/372/31  
MK/ms

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FULL RATE

MR WILLIAM EPSTEIN  
DIRECTOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS DIVISION  
UNATIONS  
NEW YORK (USA)

TWO HUNDRED COPIES WHO REPORT BEING DISPATCHED <sup>to six</sup> BY UN POUCH STOP REPORT CONTAINS  
TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON HARASSING AGENTS AND REFERS TO TERATOGENIC EFFECTS  
IN RATS AND MICE OF WIDELY USED ANTIPLANT AGENT TWO COMMA FOUR COMMA FIVE T STOP  
LETTER ACCOMPANYING REPORTS

KAPLAN UNISANTE

28.11.69

DG's Office

cc: Mr Epstein (confirmation copy)  
Dr Kaplan  
Dr Meselson

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N64/372/31

28 November 1969

Personal

Dear Bill,

This week's news was a great, even though incomplete, victory and I have no doubt that the work of the UN Group of Consultant Experts under your chairmanship played an appreciable part.

... You will find enclosed a copy of our report which has been sent to the Secretary-General along with 200 copies being shipped by UN pouch this afternoon to use as he deems best. Since the debate may focus on the unresolved problems of harassing and anti-plant agents please note particularly the sections devoted to these subjects in Annex 1, pages 20 to 27. It is of particular interest that 2, 4, 5-T, widely used in Vietnam, has been demonstrated to have teratogenic effects in rats and mice and that the United States Government has acted accordingly to restrict its use (Annex 1, page 25, and page 12 of the text of first part of the report dealing with "long-term effects").

May the grapes thus far harvested in the vineyard not grow sour.

Cordially,

Martin Kaplan

Mr W. Epstein  
Director of the Disarmament Affairs Division  
Room 3570  
United Nations  
New York, N.Y. 10017  
USA

... ENCL.

cc: Dr Meselson