

from Sir Harold Himsworth.  
13. HAMILTON TERRACE, LONDON, N.W.8  
01-286 6996

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28th. November, 1969.

The President,  
The American Academy of Arts and Sciences,  
280 Newton Street,  
Brookline Station,  
Boston, Mass. 02146.

Dear Professor Parsons,

I am presuming on my Foreign Honorary Membership of the Academy to write to you and ask whether it would be possible for the Academy to inform me on a particular point.

Like you, we in this country have become deeply concerned about the problems of Chemical and Biological Warfare. A special aspect of this problem is, of course, the use of riot-control agents and, following the use of CS by the police in Ulster, there was acute public concern about this. The result was that I (as being persona grata to all parties in this incident) was asked by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to head up an independent enquiry into the effects that followed, or could follow, the use of this agent.

We have now completed the first part of our enquiry which is confined to a 'clinical' assessment of the situation in Northern Ireland; and I enclose herewith a copy of our report in case it is relevant to the problem that the Academy is considering. We are now embarked on the second part of the enquiry which is to consider CS from a stand-point akin to that from which a new drug would be scrutinised. It is in this connection that I am writing to you.

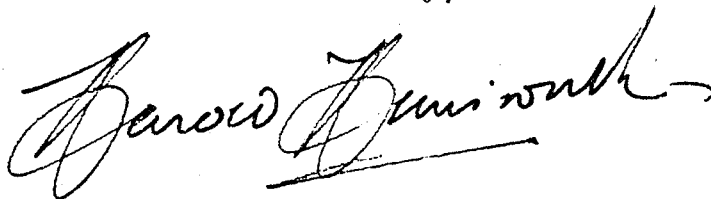
I saw from the recent number of the Bulletin that the Academy was to hold a Stated Meeting this month on the problem of chemical and biological weapons. Information has now reached me that the rumour is current in this country that, at a meeting of the Academy (in June, it is said) unequivocal evidence was produced that CS could kill human beings when used in the concentrations that arise in practice. We have sought high and low for evidence on this but, as yet, have not unearthed any that would stand up to scrutiny. Naturally, therefore, I was very alert to this rumour and more particularly because the authority of the Academy was being invoked in support of it.

I should, therefore, be most grateful if it were

possible for you to give me any information on this matter both for its own sake and because I understand from my informant that he has in mind to give publicity to the evidence to which he refers.

I regret that this, one of my few communications to the Academy, should be concerned with a subject of this nature.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Harold Himsworth". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name. It features a prominent initial "H" and a long, sweeping underline.

Harold Himsworth.