

December 8, 1969

Dr. John Rasmussen
Federation of American Scientists
2025 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear John,

I enclose a copy of the proceedings of the Conference on Chemical and Biological Warfare held at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences this summer.. I also enclose a copy of the telegram I sent to President Nixon following the decisions he announced on November 25. I also enclose a book review that indicates my continued concern with the problem of obtaining a clear-cut and uniform interpretation of the Geneva Protocol.

If the FAS has not yet sent a message to the President, I urge that we do so now. Our message should praise his decisions and express the strong hope that we can arrive at a clear-cut, durable and uniform interpretation of the Geneva Protocol. We should then advance the view that this can be achieved only if nations refrain from all forms of chemical warfare including the use of irritant gases and anti-plant chemicals.

Regarding the CBW committee described in your letter of November 20, I am very reluctant to take on another responsibility. Furthermore, I think it is important to develop and bring into public view several more scientific experts on CBW. I would of course be glad to assist the work of such a committee, but I am not willing at present to head it up. We might discuss this matter more in Boston during the AAAS meeting.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson

MM:ls
Encl.