

January 29, 1970

Mr. Julian Perry-Robinson
SIPRI
Veavagen 166
113 46 Stockholm
Sweden

Dear Julian,

My information is that the Protocol will not go to the Senate until mid February or later. The Foreign Relations Committee will probably conduct its hearings a few weeks after the treaty is submitted to the Senate. It would be a great pity if the SIPRI CBW Study became available only after the drama is all played out. When you finally send my copy of the provisional edition, be sure to let me know whether or not I am permitted to circulate it among those most concerned with the ratification debate.

The Zablocki hearings have not yet been printed. Some of the more interesting testimony is enclosed. So far as I know, the report cited by Robert Smith in the New York Times of September 29 was not presented to any Congressional committee. The report is still classified secret even though it appears that Smith somehow obtained a copy.

I do not have copies of items 2 and 4 in my "additional" reference list. Can you supply me with a copy of additional reference 3, Porton Technical Paper 757, or, indeed, any material on the skin sensitizing effects of CS. I enclose a copy of one of the items you requested. I do not have the other.

There is an almost typographical error in the WHO report that you should be aware of. Somehow we let stand a statement that 0.5-5 mgm per square meter of VX on the ground would constitute a serious hazard to unprotected personnel. The SIPRI report says 0.5-5 gm. I think that 0.1gm per square meter might be enough but the WHO value is clearly a mistake.

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United States policy for irritant gas and anti-plant chemicals is still not irrevocably set. The President himself had said nothing about the subject. Even the background briefing provided by Henry Kissinger on November 25 left room for the evolution of policy, although this was not well communicated by the press. In this situation, when our policy can still evolve in a favorable direction, it would be tragic if the process were cut short by a British decision to reverse their traditional policy on tear gas.

With warm regards,

As ever,

Matthew Meselson

MM:ls
Encl.

P.S. The House Committee hearings on the Protocol will be available within a week. I shall send you a copy.