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MILL HILL,
LONDON, N.W.7.

16th February 1970

Dear Matt,

Many thanks for your letter of February 11th. I am glad that you support the idea implicit in the draft letter which I sent to you, and I think that your comments are valuable and we shall try to incorporate them with any other valuable comments that come in.

So far as I know THE TIMES didn't print your letter. However the OBSERVER had a half page article yesterday which made virtually the identical points which were in your letter and mentioned that some members of the Cabinet had come near to resigning over the question of excluding CS gas from the Geneva Protocol.

You might be amused in an attempt which David Tyrrell and I made to see how CS acted. Tyrrell is an expert at culturing human nasal epithelium so that the cilia continue to beat. I had some CS (authentic from Vietnam) and the powder was actually dropped on the explants, and the cilia continued to beat unchanged, swirling the CS particles around them. This seems to show that the material is remarkably non-toxic to the epithelium. It presumably must act on nerve endings.

I noticed in SCIENCE that you have been made Chairman of an AAAS Committee to look into long-term effects of defoliation. I hope that this won't wear you out.

Yours ever,

J.H. Humphrey

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