



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

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Office of the Director

April 6, 1970

**Professor Bernard Feld
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Room 26-425
Cambridge, Massachusetts [02139]**

Dear Bernie:

At the suggestion of Professor Rotblat, Martin Kaplan has asked me to check into the possibility of a meeting of the Pugwash BW Study Group at Fort Detrick, probably a few days before the 20th Conference which will be held at Fontana, Wisconsin, on September 9 - 14, 1970. In his note to me, Dr. Kaplan indicated that he had the impression that this idea has the support of both you and Matt Messelson.

I have checked into this possibility and, unfortunately, it appears that it will not be feasible to plan such a meeting at Fort Detrick. The reason for this is an interesting one and has to do with the transition that will result from President Nixon's decision to renounce BW. Without going into all of the various possibilities now under consideration, I can summarize the situation by saying that no one in Washington now knows which agency will be in charge at Detrick when September rolls around. It may still be the Army or it may be the Public Health Service or it may be some other agency within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Whatever the final arrangement happens to be, the difficulty with trying to plan for a meeting in September is that if one works with the authorities now at Fort Detrick to lay these plans one is likely to find that there is no one around in September who will remember the arrangements. If the situation were more stable which, thank goodness, it is not, it would probably be a relatively easy matter to arrange such a meeting.

An alternative with that has occurred to me which I will be very glad to explore if you would like for me to do so, would be to make arrangements for the BW Study Group to hold its meeting at the Fogarty International Center on the Campus at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. This is a good place for an international meeting and its location near the National Institutes of Health should be of interest to almost all who attend. Furthermore, the

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National Institutes of Health are only about 35 minutes by car or bus from Fort Detrick which is located in Frederick and, no matter what has happened in terms of who is in charge at Detrick, it should be possible to arrange to visit the laboratories at Detrick or even to hold a session there on relatively short notice. I make this suggestion as an alternative because it would make it possible to plan for the meeting of the BW Study Group, knowing that the plans would not be changed during the summer and, at the same time, the meeting would be located close enough to Detrick that appropriate arrangements could be made at a later time.

I am sending copies of this letter to Martin Kaplan, Professor Rotblat, and Matt Messelson and I will await further instructions.

Incidentally, I have no way of knowing for sure that the Fogarty Center will be available for a meeting at that time but it will be very easy to check out the possibility.

Sincerely,

Ivan L. Bennett, Jr., M.D.
Director

ILB/ad

cc: Dr. Kaplan
Dr. Rotblat
Dr. Messelson