

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



ORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉ

1211 GENEVA 27 - SWITZERLAND  
Telegr.: UNISANTE-Geneva

Tél. 34 60 61 Télex. 22335

1211 GENÈVE 27 - SUISSE  
Télégr.: UNISANTÉ-Genève

In reply please refer to:  
Prière de rappeler la référence:

17 April 1970

Dear Bernie,

I had a discussion with Joe Rotblat on Wednesday evening on the proposed Workshop for Rapid Detection and Identification of Microbiological Agents. He told me that the Continuing Committee had responded favourably to the proposal and we went over various aspects of the meeting. Joe asked me to summarize them and send them to you so that action can be taken as soon as possible.

The best dates appear to be 3-5 September. According to Ivan Bennett's suggestion, with which I fully agree, the meeting could be held at the Fogarty International Center in Bethesda. A visit could be made to Fort Detrick, or the meeting transferred there should the situation in September be favourable to such a move.

It is felt that you, Matt Meselson and Ivan Bennett should be the committee in charge of arranging for the meeting, although the invitations would, of course, be sent from London. I hope your optimism about being able to finance the meeting bears fruit. Several of the participants (e.g. from Porton, SIPRI and myself) could arrange their own travel funds.

... I am attaching a draft of topic headings and a list of proposed participants from different countries. Joe asked me to write to Tammelin in Sweden to make sure that the most competent person engaged in BW work in their national defence effort would attend, in addition to the two men mentioned on the attached list. Patricia will contact Gordon-Smith at Porton, and if indicated I can write him also. I would find out who would be the proper person from Switzerland. Ivan or Matt could determine from Riley Housewright, Scientific Director at Fort Detrick, any possible suggestions he might have for foreign participants.

continued.../

Professor Bernard Feld  
Laboratory for Nuclear Science - Room 26-425  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Mass. 02139  
USA

cc: Professor J. Rotblat  
London

... ENCLS: as mentioned

With respect to the preparation of working documents, we should realize that most of them would have to be prepared by participants from the western countries, although Sinyak could be asked to prepare one on fluorescent antibody since he has been working on this subject for SIPRI (a special meeting is taking place in Stockholm in May to discuss his work and related efforts).

Don Glaser told me in Berkeley two weeks ago that he would be glad to attend if he is given notice fairly soon. Josh Lederberg, whom I saw in Stanford, also told me he would be very interested in attending although the dates of 3-5 September may be inconvenient; he preferred to have the meeting after the Annual Conference in Wisconsin. Incidentally, I think that Lederberg would like to receive an invitation to the Annual Conference this year. Matt knows him well and can telephone him to find out whether he could attend one or both conferences.

... You should discuss the attached sheets with Matt and Bennett and, eventually, Housewright. We will do the same at this end with Gordon-Smith. We should obtain suggestions from both Housewright and Gordon-Smith concerning individuals who could prepare background papers.

... I had promised Housewright and Bennett that I would write them after a decision was taken by the Continuing Committee, and I am enclosing copies of letters I am sending to them. You will note that definitive word about everything would come from you and Bennett.

I am glad that there are good prospects for the meeting because I believe it will be a very useful affair. I think we should anticipate that during the first meeting the participants from the Eastern European countries will not say very much, and that a second meeting in about six to eight months time might be in order. Perhaps after that we can go on to the problems of chemicals. Incidentally, the CBW discussions at the annual conference might concentrate on the difficulties encountered in negotiations at the Disarmament Commission in Geneva, which is quite a different set of problems from the Bethesda meeting, although a number of the participants would be the same.

Please mark "Personal" on any correspondence with me to my office.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely yours,



Martin Kaplan

P.S. Tomorrow I'm doing the  
Vallée Blanche (Chamonix) with  
a guide and group. This may  
be my last testament. *ks.*

17.4.1970

Pugwash Symposium on Rapid Detection and Identification of Pathogenic  
Microorganisms

---

Site and Dates : Fogarty International Center of the National  
Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland  
3 - 5 September 1970

... A suggested list of participants is attached.

Background and Purpose :

The rapid detection and identification of pathogenic microorganisms are problems of concern to many countries, both for purposes of defence and medical and public health practice. An east-west exchange of information on this subject could contribute greatly with respect to increased mutual trust. The expressed policy of almost all governments is to forego use of BW under any circumstances and to eliminate all research and development with respect to such weapons. There should be no difficulty therefore in achieving an open exchange of information which could be made available for public use. For these reasons, the Pugwash Study Group of CBW (Marianske-Laszne, May 1969) and the report of Working Group 4 (Pugwash Conference, Sochi, October 1969) recommended to the Pugwash Continuing Committee the convening of a symposium as discussed here. This recommendation was accepted by the Continuing Committee.

Topic Headings :

1. Recent progress in fluorescent antibody, fluorometry and other techniques associated with rapid detection and identification of living agents.
2. Non-specificity in rapid detection techniques.
3. Automation and technological procedures for rapid discrimination and identification of viruses, rickettsial organisms, bacteria, fungi and spores.

Suggested participants :

USSR	Sinyak, Imshenetsky, Zdanov plus others if desired
Czechoslovakia	Franek, Moraviec, Malek
United Kingdom	John Humphrey, Gordon-Smith plus two other workers from Porton
Sweden	Lundgren, Heden plus one person from their national defence effort
Denmark	Maaloe, Leerhoy
France	Moulin (delegate to United Nations CBW Committee), Marcovitch
Netherlands	Bartlema (delegate to United Nations CBW Committee)
Switzerland	One participant to be suggested later
Finland	Mettinen
Poland	Kurylowicz
SIPRI	Nemec, Robinson
WHO	Kaplan
USA	Housewright plus three or four from Fort Detrick, Glaser, Meselson, Lederberg, Bennett