



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

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Office of the Director

May 11, 1970

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

Dear Bernie:

I am sorry for the delay in writing about my inquiry into some of the possibilities for a meeting of the Pugwash Biological Warfare Committee.

The original suggestion that was transmitted to me by Dr. Kaplan was for a meeting at Ft. Detrick early in September. I inquired into this possibility and it is clear that such a meeting cannot be planned for because of the transition in management of that installation that is contemplated this year. There simply is no one who can take responsibility for such a meeting or can make commitments for use of Detrick facilities at this time.

I came up with the suggestion that a meeting might be held at the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda with a possibility of arranging a session at Ft. Detrick (which is only 45 minutes away) at the last moment. I have discussed this thoroughly with Dr. Milo D. Leavitt who directs the Center. All of its facilities are committed for September and Dr. Leavitt himself will be in Japan during the early part of September. That possibility has been eliminated.

I will be in Japan also during the first half of September and it is probable that Matt Messelson will be in Vietnam at that time. Matt does not feel that he can take any further responsibility for arranging a meeting which he will not attend and I have the same view.

I have only two suggestions left -- either we should give up the idea of a meeting of the BW committee or someone should be found

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who can take responsibility for planning the meeting. I can only suggest that Alex Rich might be persuaded. I have not seen him or spoken to him about the matter but am sending him a copy of this letter.

That is how matters stand.

Sincerely,

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

cc:

Dr. Kaplan

Dr. Rotblat

Dr. Messelson

Dr. Leavitt

Dr. Rich