



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

550 FIRST AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016
AREA 212 679-3200
CABLE ADDRESS: NYUMEDIC

Office of the Director

May 25, 1970

Dr. Bernard T. Feld
American Academy of Arts and Sciences
280 Newton Street
Brookline Station
Boston, Massachusetts [02146]

Dear Bernie:

I have your letter of May 15, with the suggestion that the meeting of the Pugwash BW group be postponed. I would certainly agree that this seems to be the best procedure but, of course, I have been under the impression that the timing of the meeting that was suggested originally was meant to enable individuals to attend a meeting of the BW group during a trip to the United States that would also include participation in the Wisconsin Pugwash Conference.

As I tried to indicate in my letter, I am in no position to take any kind of responsibility for planning a meeting of the Pugwash BW group. The initiative will simply have to come from someone else although, were a conference planned, I would make every reasonable effort to attend. I did not and do not now share enthusiasm for the idea of a conference on rapid detection methods and, quite frankly, I believe that there are better ways in which time could be spent. The striking change in U.S. policy on BW and toxin that has occurred since the last time the Pugwash BW group met seems to me to have changed completely the types of questions that need to be confronted. I might also say that it seems to me that the priority in discussion should center on CW rather than BW. It is not clear to me that the composition of the Pugwash discussion group is an ideal one for the discussion of the problems that remain in the field of chemical weapons but I would certainly hope that these would come under serious discussion the next time that the group meets. I would much prefer such a discussion to a symposium on rapid detection methods and I believe that the results might be more

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applicable to the problems that we still face in this particular field of arms control and disarmament.

If this Pugwash discussion group is to have another meeting and if the meeting is to be held in the United States, it seems to me that some one individual must be willing to take on the responsibility of arranging for the meeting and the program. This is something that I cannot accept responsibility for. Until such an individual is willing to declare himself, I see no choice but to postpone the meeting of the group indefinitely.

I know that you are terribly busy and I am afraid that this letter is not very helpful to you but the situation certainly is in need of clarification.

Sincerely,

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

ILB/ad

cc: Dr. Martin Kaplan
Professor J. Rotblat
Dr. Matthew Meselson
Dr. Milo D. Leavitt
Dr. Alexander Rich