

CBW

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Room E53-465A

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

May 26, 1970

Professor Matthew Meselson
Biological Laboratories, Room A-411
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Meselson,

Attached to this letter are several items on CBW which I mentioned to you last Saturday at the Council office.

The first item is an abstract indicating that benzylidenemalononitrile is an effective herbicide. The Army's CS (o-chlorobenzylidenemalononitrile) is obviously very closely related in structure. If anything, CS might be an even more effective herbicide than benzylidenemalononitrile because of the chloro- group. It seems quite possible that the massive quantities of CS which have been spread around the Vietnamese countryside have had a significant herbicidal effect.

The second group of four items are copied from the published record of hearings on the military procurement authorization bill for FY 71 held in March and April 1970 before the House Armed Services Committee. I could not find any further remarks on CBW in the hearing record. According to Secretary Laird, \$46.8 million has been requested for chemical warfare RDT&E for FY-71 and \$21.6 million for "defensive biological research." In the appendix to the record, a breakdown of the FY-71 CB budget is given. Not surprisingly, the funds allocated to advanced development, testing, and procurement have been deleted from the published record for security reasons.

Please call me if you have any questions about these items (MIT ext. 3136 or MIT ext. 1823).

Sincerely yours,

Bob Mikulak

Robert Mikulak
Visiting Scientist