



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Public Health

State Laboratory Institute

375 South Street, Boston 02130

CBW concept
Ed Hall

June 11, 1970

Prof. Matthew Meselson
Biological Laboratories
Harvard University
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Dear Matt:

Ever since you told me about the studies on stillbirths in South Vietnam, I have been looking for further guideline information on this problem. I had a chance the other day to talk to Bill Schmidt, the Professor of Maternal and Child Health at the Harvard School of Public Health, and he has sent me the following references and comments:

"References of possible interest in relation to adverse conditions of life (including nutrition) and pregnancy outcomes:

Räihä, C.-E. The incidence of premature births. *Ann. Med. Int. Fenniae* 36: 619, 1947 (Finland).

Parviainen, S. Die Mortalität ^{"T"} von Mutter und Kind: subtitled frequency of premature births during war years in Finland. *Acta. Obst. et Gynec. Scandinav.* 28: 335, 1949.

Smith, C. A. The effect of wartime starvation in Holland upon pregnancy and its product. *Am. J. Obstet. & Gynec.* 53: 599, 1947.

Smith, C. A. Effects of maternal undernutrition upon the newborn infant in Holland (1944-1945). *J. Pediatrics* 30: 229, 1947.

Antonov, A. N. Children born during The Siege of Leningrad in 1942. *J. Pediatrics* 30: 250, 1947.

Clement Smith says the data of his study on abortions are useless, but the birth weight and other data are good.

Bill".

As I said, the evaluation of the kind of data that have been collected in South Vietnam may well involve the thinking not only of pediatricians or obstetricians but biostatisticians, epidemiologists, and God knows what else. However, Clem Smith is a local man who obviously

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has had a deep interest in this problem, and he also is a very fine gentleman. You could call him yourself if you wanted (since he has obviously been alerted to this question) or I could make the contact if you prefer. He is an old friend of mine, having been our family pediatrician some years ago. I think he is now retired; he lives on Fayerweather Street in Cambridge.

The pamphlet on the Council for a Livable World seems, both to Helen and me, to sum up the basic approaches to our need nowadays, and to cover more than just a barrage of tactical details as so many organizations do. We're sending in our tokens of support.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,



Geoffrey Edsall, M.D.
Superintendent

State Laboratory Institute

GE:F

Enclosed is a photostat of the
reply I received after writing
Pres. Nixon. The very fact
that the Deputy Asst Chief
of Staff for Force Develop-
ment (i.e. one of the weapons
planners) replied suggests to me
that Nixon's staff missed
the whole point of my letter
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