



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

March 22, 1989

Academician Vadim Ivanov  
Director  
Shemyakin Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry  
Ul. Miklukho-Maklaya, 16/10  
117871 GSP-7 Moscow V-437, USSR

Dear Vadim:

We have been working hard to prepare for our next joint BW working group meeting in London in just a few days.

To help make the most productive use of our meeting time, I thought it might be useful to share with you in advance some of the ideas we have been developing for discussion at the London meeting.

Enclosed you will find think pieces written by some of our working group members. These papers reflect only the views of their authors and are intended to be starting points for further discussion and work.

Allow me to describe in brief what you will find in this package:

- 1) A paper from John Steinbruner addressing the issue of how one might define in quantitative terms the line between permitted and prohibited research under the Biological Weapons Convention. Under the scheme he discusses, agents would be categorized according to their BW potential. Those agents in the higher categories of concern would be subject to disclosure. He envisions a two-tier scheme whereby possessing amounts of agent above the lower threshold would require that these amounts be disclosed. Amounts above the second, higher threshold would be strictly prohibited unless disclosed, justified, and as a result there was mutual agreement that the purpose was legitimate and justified exceeding the prohibition threshold in that particular case. I believe there is much here for us to discuss, including the categorization of agents and the precise quantitative limits which would trigger disclosure or prohibition.
- 2) A paper from Robert Chanock on the issue of distinguishing defensive from offensive R&D, particularly as the problem relates to recombinant research.

- 3) My discussion paper on the status of toxins under the Biological Weapons Convention. The paper identifies the problem that toxins are not defined in the Convention and suggests for discussion several alternatives for clarifying the existing uncertainties.
- 4) Some thoughts from Thomas Monath on issues surrounding the continued vaccination of troops against small pox.

I hope this material reaches you in time to review and share with your delegation. Please send a telex to the CISAC office (telex number: 4900007626) to let us know that you received it.

My colleagues and I are looking forward to seeing you soon in London.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Joshua Lederberg in cursive script, followed by the initials "JLR".

Joshua Lederberg  
President  
Rockefeller University