

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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ENCs: *Hersh*
Sam 2/17-9/7
Mulley, Hope Jones ltr 7/72
newsclips 8/7/68; 7/2/68
Meselson bill
Knapp in New Sci. 9/24/66

September 2, 1968

Dear Senator Mondale:

~~Hi~~ I was most pleased to receive your letter of August 21, responding to some of the concerns I have expressed about biological warfare. May I begin with the remark that I plan to use the published hearings on your bill S. J. Res. 145 as the textbook for a course on biology and human affairs that I will be teaching again this fall.

Dr. Matthew Meselson of Harvard is the most knowledgeable source to whom I could refer you -- but I will call him and I am sure he will respond directly. I am enclosing a fair bit of material, some of which I had received originally from him, and I know he could bring it up to date. I would also refer you to Hersh's very recent book, from which I have copied and enclose the chapter on proposals for international control. His writing is unduly hysterical about the so-called "establishment" that has been built about CBW. There is as far as I can see an honest difference of opinion how the country should respond to the threat of CBW by our adversaries. But the worst of it is the inertia shown by the administration in recognizing the problem as a world-issue that far outweighs its possible strategic significance. My own concern is not at all for the possible use of BW by the US or the USSR, but our opening the door to a proliferation of irresponsible experiments by smaller powers.

May I also stress (as, unfortunately, Meselson and Hersh have not done) the distinctions between chemical and biological warfare, from this point of view. As far as I can see, CW introduces no fundamental novelties into the existing horrors of war; nevertheless, I do respect the argument that the very proliferation of new tools capable of fitting a wider variety of tactical challenges does increase the ~~temptation~~ temptation to use them. (For example, our purported capacity to conduct efficient counter-insurgency undoubtedly played a central role in getting us into the Vietnamese mess.) But this should not cloud the issue raised by the species-hazard of BW.

LT. J. P. KENNEDY, JR. LABORATORIES FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE, DEDICATED TO RESEARCH IN MENTAL RETARDATION

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

HEREDITY

NEUROBIOLOGY

DEVELOPMENTAL MEDICINE

Sincerely
Joshua Lederberg

P.S. Why not ask the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency to prepare a resume of U.S. and international initiatives for BW control? (I would be delighted to see this myself!)

MONDALE