To: cleto.digiovanni@dtra.mil
Subject: what to worry about
Reply-to: lederberg@mail.rockefeller.edu
Date: Mon, 21 Jul 2003 22:15:04 -0400
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Dear Clete

My most tangible concern for near future is low-tech exploitation of SARS virus, e.g. some aggrieved's attack on PRC; or conversely if SARS recurs in PRC and there are economic sanctions, someone may get it in his head to level the playing field globally. Or added armamentarium for attacks on US.

What would simplify the threator's task would be easy cultivation of the human virus in a readily accessible animal --, perhaps the civet cat already fills that role. To what titer does the virus grow?

I should have pressed the point, do civets in the market already display an identical virus to what's known to cause SARS in humans?

Look ahead 10-20 years, and yes there's a frightful outlook for mischief via even amateur genetic engineering. But it is gilding the lily.
I see G.E. major role being to defeat our specific countermeasures. For SARS we don't have any now.

There, on present knowledge, I'd worry much more about flu.