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Washington, D.C. 20540

June 15, 1976

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Stanford University School of Medicine
Department of Genetics
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I am happy to have an opportunity to provide you with some information. You've been so helpful to me in the past that I was beginning to feel a little guilty about imposing on you. The debates on the chemical warfare and biological defense research programs were quite confusing during the FY 76 actions. The significant portions of the various committee reports are provided in the enclosed copy of my report for last year and I have marked paragraphs of particular interest. However, the precise legislative points you want identified as described in your letter are as follows. In Public Law 94-106, Section 818 (see enclosed copy) of the Department of Defense Appropriation Authorization Act, 1976, the Department of the Army was specifically forbidden to use, for the purpose of producing lethal binary chemical munitions, any of the funds authorized to be appropriated. However, this action did not specifically preclude the Army from constructing facilities to produce such binary munitions. The action to preclude the modification of facilities, that is the construction line within a building, for assembly of binary weapons was blocked by amendment of H.R. 5210 (the Military Construction Authorization Act) (P.L. 94-107) on the floor of the House. This amendment introduced by Mr. Hicks (see enclosed copies of the pages of the Congressional Record [Daily Edition], July 28, 1975), and approved by floor vote, struck from the bill the money requested for the Pine Bluff binary facility. There is no money in P.L. 94-107 for the Pine Bluff Facility. Thus, these two actions, P.L. 94-106 and amendment of P.L. 94-107 removed the money for construction of the facility and the procurement of material for the binary weapon. Money for continued research, development, test and engineering (RDT&E) was approved as were the sums requested for general defense and toxic agent RDT&E.

No money was requested either for modification of facilities or for procurement of binary materiel in the FY 77 legislation. I feel certain, however, that the issue will be opened again in the FY 78 legislation if no progress is made at Geneva.

The Soviet space program study, with the geodetic mission data which you requested, is currently being printed at the Government Printing Office. This is an authoritative and complete analysis of the Soviet Space Program in addition to providing geodetic data. Our division chief, Dr. Charles S. Sheldon II, is the principal author. I have his assurance that as

soon as the committee print is available from GPO I can have a copy to send to you and I will do so as soon as possible.

I have been requested to prepare an update on the genetic engineering committee print. With so much work going on in DNA recombinant molecule research I find it even more challenging than ever. I hope I can call on you later this year on this topic. Please let me know if there is anything more I can do to help you.

Sincerely,

Jim

James M. McCullough
Senior Specialist in Life Sciences

Enclosures

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