

UNITED STATES ARMY  
CHEMICAL CORPS BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES

FORT DETRICK, MARYLAND

CMLRD-BL-10-PD

10 August 1960

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University Medical Center  
Palo Alto, California

Dear Joshua:

As far as I am concerned, the report which I sent you on "New Principles for BW Aerosol Alarms" is a NRC; not an Army document, even though practically all the editing was done at Fort Detrick. I cannot see where there would be any objections to this being distributed to another NRC Committee which might have an interest in the material. There may even be some extra copies in the hands of Dr. Clem Miller of the Chemistry Division of NRC. We, ourselves, are down to a very few copies.

We did do some follow-up work with the cell developed by Dr. Britton. Our interest was whether his device was adaptable as a collecting cell, and could serve as a method for concentrating bacteria within a very small volume of liquid. We immediately ran into trouble, and found out that the phenomenon simply could not be scaled up. Dr. Britton had a very small cell with an electrode spacing of several hundredths of a millimeter, and a point radius in the order of a micron. His cell, which he loaned us, worked fine but when we made others with more widely separated electrodes, the phenomenon simply disappeared. One of our boys did a little theoretical study which indicated that this should have been expected, and we dropped our efforts with the device. This is about all the additional information we have on the cell. Perhaps Dr. Britton could furnish you with more specific information.

Sincerely,

*Charlie*

CHARLES R. PHILLIPS  
Chief, Physical Defense Division

cc: Mr. G. A. Derbyshire

*Thought you might like to see that we  
have converts among the science fiction writers.*

*C*