

Memo from

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

To: Dr R Q Blackwell  
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Genetics Research connected with AGILE

I have received a communication from a Dr. Hammerschlag at City of Hope that needs to be taken very seriously as a potential source of mischievous misunderstanding. Some of his colleagues have gotten the idea that your work on hemoglobin polymorphisms-- since it acknowledged AGILE/ARPA support-- might be related in some way to the development of ethnic-specific chemical weapons! You will doubtless be hearing from Dr. Hammerschlag, and I fear that you might dismiss his inquiry out of hand if you did not understand the background, or the potentialities of (what I trust is) a groundless allegation. It is difficult (especially to people who may be inexperienced in the dynamics of getting funding for medical research) to understand what Hb variants have to do with the ARPA mission as defined in the appropriations process. I could well understand your reluctance to be submitted to any process of justification, but my PLEA is that you do take such inquiries seriously, and respond as candidly and factually as possible about the mission of ARPA Order No. 580, Program Plan 298; how it relates to PHS "monitoring"; and the scope and purposes of your own work thereunder. I can too easily visualize the flourishing of fantasies about population-genetic research generally that would surpass the CAMELOT fiasco.

If I can help in any way to facilitate clear understanding, please call upon me.

Sincerely



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