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STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Genetics

Dear Andy-

As you well know, I am in full agreement with the main thrust of your piece. The one thing I would have added myself is the global escalation of BW development, most perniciously among smaller and more desperate countries, that the US's interest in the ~~xxxx~~ field inevitably encourages.

I do have to split a few hairs with you, with the aim of keeping as solid a factual basis as possible. You may be able to rebut-- please do:

* 1) At Skull Valley, it ~~was~~ ^{may} already ^{have been} a meteorological fluke that pulled the gas cloud off the base. I have seen no plausible model that would have led to substantial exposure of people (like as many as 10). Sheep do seem to be extraordinarily sensitive to the CW ~~xxxx~~ agent. (None of this is mitigation, but the unembellished facts are bad enough.)

2) The BW labs probably have the most energetic precautions, ^{available anywhere.} against the escape of pathogens, and I do not believe they can be blamed for "many" lab infections. (I am concerned that they may concentrate on drug-resistant and other mutants that are intentionally difficult to deal with; so one case is already too many.) What mainly scared me here was that secrecy might prevent the sufficient exercise of professional judgments to assure that no foolish field trials were conducted. And this is still a subject on which I have little confidence,

* Accidents in shipment are probably a more serious hazard!

Sincerely
John Ledy.