Dear Col. Birkner,

Thank you for your note and draft.

I don't know what the State Dept. report is. I was not very happy with it, and I think it's worse now. So much for better. It said nothing more about military applications than what you quoted, plus a disclaimer that the issue was better dealt with elsewhere.

My general position emerges with yours. Yes, O/E adds something to the enforcement of BW, but the big issue is testing for reliability. This is far easier done on coal than on people.

O/E will result in better vaccines, etc., and particularly this may be its military role, i.e., to assure invulnerability of the aggressor's people.

We don't believe that O/E is crucial to BW. But a country that invests in BW will certainly go the next round and use O/E for that reinforcement.

I am not too happy about spooning even good ideas. in BW in unclassified media. Perhaps a similar motive has damped others' public comments.

Are you at the Pentagon or Bethesda? Please send me your phone number and I'll try to locate you up, perhaps in about a month during the DS-3 visit.

Sincerely,

[Signature]