Dear Albert,

A copy of my statement in support of Virginia. He asked me to "send it on" so that it could satisfy the WS request.

We also enclosed copies of newspaper clippings on my recent activities abroad (I was in "St. Petersburg last May, June.

Love & Hugs,

[Signature]

9200 Old Annapolis Road, Suite 201, Columbia, MD 21045
November 8, 1991

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing in behalf of Dr. Konstantin M. Chumakov to support his request for a waiver of the two-year foreign residence requirement. I believe that the success of a critically important research project in progress at the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), FDA may depend on Dr. Chumakov's direct personal participation during the next 3-4 years.

Less than a year after his arrival in the United States Dr. Chumakov authored a breakthrough report in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA (January 1991). He and his coworkers described a novel molecular diagnostic method which allows detection of revertant virus particles in live poliovaccines. The report promptly attracted worldwide attention because it raised the possibility of supplementing or even supplanting the monkey neurovirulence safety test with an in vitro procedure. The procedure now in use is technically difficult, expensive, and sometimes biologically uncertain; furthermore, the test monkeys, which are increasingly difficult to procure, must be sacrificed to have their tissues examined.

The potential practical applications of a basic research finding prompted the World Health Organization and the FDA to organize an international workshop on "Poliovirus Attenuation: Molecular Mechanisms and Practical Aspects". Many of the world's experts in the field will travel to Bethesda next month (December 1991) to present their data; it is anticipated that a program of international collaboration to exploit the research findings will be developed under the auspices of WHO.

Cont...
Dr. Chumakov is one of the organizers of the workshop, and he will undoubtedly play an irreplaceable role in the forthcoming collaborative study. I believe that should he leave Bethesda in satisfaction of the two-year home country presence rule, the project may lose its momentum, or even become permanently crippled. In October 1989 I wrote to support Dr. Chumakov as a most promising candidate for an appointment with the International Visiting Scientists Program at FDA. I regarded him then as an accomplished and productive scientist of exceptional training and experience, who could be expected to contribute in an important way to solving the difficult problem of neurovirulence safety testing. His performance during the past two years substantiates my evaluation.

I am in a position to judge the merits of Dr. Chumakov's research and of his qualifications to conduct it, as indicated by the career positions I have held during the past 30-plus years: Director of Vaccine Research, Government Services Division, The Salk Institute; Professor (and Adjunct Professor) of Epidemiology, The Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health; Professor and Chairman, Department of Microbiology, The University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio; Chief, Laboratory of Virology and Rickettsiology, Division of Biologics Standards, NIH (predecessor of CBER, FDA); Chief, Laboratory of Tropical Virology, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH. Many of the early years were devoted to research on poliomyelitis, polioviruses, and poliovaccines; in my present capacity with The Salk Institute, I am well informed of the current status of vaccine research and development. (I will attach a list of appointments I hold at this time and a biographical entry from one of the reference directories.)

I am confident that the granting of a waiver in the case of Dr. Chumakov is in the interests of the FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, and the American people.

Alexis Shelokov, M.D.
Director of Vaccine Research

Attachments
ALEXIS SHELOKOV, M.D.

Current Position:

Director of Vaccine Research
The Salk Institute-Government Services Division
7135 Minstrel Way
Suite 203
Columbia, MD 21045
Tel 301/596-7340
FAX 301/381-1454

Current Outside Appointments:

1. Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology
   School of Hygiene & Public Health
   The Johns Hopkins University
   615 North Wolfe Street
   Baltimore, MD 21205

2. Member, BW Working Group of the Committee on
   International Security and Arms Control (CISAC)
   National Academy of Sciences
   2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
   Washington, D.C. 20418

3. Member, Core Group of the Expert Working Group
   on Biological and Toxin Weapons Verification
   Federation of American Scientists (FAS)
   307 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E.
   Washington, D.C. 20002

4. Member, Committee on Microbial Threats to Health
   National Academy of Sciences
   Institute of Medicine
   2101 Constitution Avenue
   Washington, D.C. 20416
SHELOKOV, ALEXIS, b China, Oct 18, 19; nat US; m 47; c I. VIROLOGY.


Mailing Add: Salk Inst 7135 Minstral Way Suite 203 Columbia MD 21045
Biological Weapons Convention Workshop

The Centre held a successful workshop on 8 August on the issues likely to arise at the Third Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference to be held in Geneva in September. The aim of the workshop was to assist the Australian and New Zealand governments prepare for the Review Conference and to foster interest among academics and scientists in the problem of biological weapons control. The main areas discussed were:

* the adequacy of the scope of the convention given recent developments in biotechnology
* improved confidence-building measures which might be established by the Review Conference, building on those initiated by previous review conferences
* the possible establishment of institutions to oversee the functioning of the Biological Weapons Convention between review conferences
* the nature of binding verification measures which might be established at some future date (the Convention currently lacks verification measures altogether), perhaps by means of a new protocol to the Convention.

The guest speaker was Dr Alexis Shelokov, Director of Vaccine Research at the Salk Institute in Maryland in the United States. Dr Shelokov proved to be a fascinating and entertaining speaker and an invaluable 'resource person' for the workshop.

The workshop was attended by representatives of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Defence, the Defence Intelligence Organisation, the Office of National Assessments, the Department of Community Services and Health, the Genetic Manipulation Committee, CSIRO Australia, the Office of the Surgeon-General and the Office of the Opposition Spokesman on Foreign Affairs. Academics and scientists from the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, the John Curtin School of Medical Research and Melbourne University Law Faculty also attended. New Zealand was represented by delegates from the Ministry of External Relations and Trade in Wellington and the New Zealand High Commission. The Royal Netherlands Embassy was also represented.

Kuala Lumpur Workshop

Links between regional security institutes were further developed last month when the Peace Research Centre and the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) in Kuala Lumpur held a joint workshop on 'Naval Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the Asia-Pacific Region'.

The workshop, funded by the New York-based Ford Foundation, brought together academics, government officials and senior naval officers to discuss theoretical and operational approaches to maritime cooperation in the region.

Regional views on naval confidence-building were presented by speakers from the Soviet Union, Japan, China, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the US and Australia. Most of the discussion for proposals for maritime cooperation focused on bilateral arrangements modelled on two existing agreements, the US/Soviet Incidents at Sea Agreement and their Dangerous Military Activities Agreement. Other measures, such as ship visits, meetings between commanders of regional naval headquarters and exchange of observers during exercises were also discussed. Suggestions for Australian cooperation with regional countries included some of the proposals above, as well as combined exercises, combined maritime surveillance and safety operations, and measures for greater transparency of major arms acquisitions, programs and strategic objectives. The Timor Gap Treaty, between Australia and Indonesia, was discussed as an useful example of joint maritime surveillance operations and resource development between two regional countries.

The papers will be edited and published as a book by the Peace Research Centre, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (Singapore) and ISIS Malaysia.
Terrorism by germ warfare feared

By ALAN SAMSON

ADVANCES in the production of biological weapons meant terrorist groups might soon be able to use them, American virologist Alexis Shelokov said in Wellington yesterday.

Dr Shelokov, visiting at the invitation of the Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control and its chairman, Justice Minister Doug Graham, said that instead of just worrying about the Saddam Husseins of this world, people should also beware of terrorist groups.

Such groups might not have biological weapons in large enough amounts to use in strategic policy or in a tactical military situation.

"But they might have it in large enough amounts to use for diversionary tactics — for panic — or in government buildings to paralyse the activities of a government.

"It would just take a small amount to put into the air conditioning or the water supply..."

Biological weapons were silent, odourless, tasteless and relatively cheap to produce, Dr Shelokov said.

But they had not been easy to make, till recently.

"In the last 15 or 20 years there have been tremendous developments in molecular biology, in areas such as recombinant dna and gene-splicing.

"It is not so much that there are new agents that can be transmitted, but that with

these new methods it is possible to produce conventional biological weapons cheaper, in greater quantities and of a greater virulence."

Dr Shelokov is director of vaccine research at the Salk Institute in Maryland, a member of the biological weapons working group of the Committee of International Security and Arms Control and a member of the Federation of American Scientists working group on biological weapons.

After speaking to Mr Graham, Dr Shelokov said last night that New Zealand was in the vanguard of world measures against biological warfare. But all countries should be ready. They should produce vaccines, develop rapid diagnostic and decontamination methods — and push for international regulations.

Ideally there should be a group of international inspectors with the power to challenge countries, he said. It was hoped that a biological weapons convention in Geneva in September would set at least a framework for the introduction of an international law — with teeth.

American virologist Alexis Shelokov in Wellington yesterday

Photo ANN SHELTON

Teachers buy TV time

DOONESBURY

[Insert comic strip]

Parliament resumed sitting under urgency at 9am yesterday, continuing debate on the committee stages of the Finance Bill (No 1).

After lunch, the Finance Bill (No 2) was reported back as 24 separate bills: the Accident Compensation Amendment Bill, the Customs Amendment Bill, the Housing Corporation Amendment Bill, the Finance Bill (No 2), the Adult Adoption Information Amendment Bill, Animals Amendment Bill, Crown Minerals Amendment Bill, Dog Control and Hydatids Amendment Bill, Earthquake and War Damage Amendment Bill, Education Amendment Bill, Employment Contracts Amendment Bill, Gaming Duties Amendment Bill, Income Tax Amendment Bill (No 5), Land Transfer Amendment Bill, Maori Education Foundation Amendment Bill, Meat Amendment Bill, National Library Amendment Bill, Public Finance Amendment Bill, Public Works Amendment Bill, Transit New Zealand Amendment Bill (No 2), Valuers Amendment Bill, Veterinary Surgeons Amendment Bill, and the New Zealand Planning Council Dissolution Bill.

All were set down for third readings.

Customs Minister Wyatt Creech moved the third reading of the Customs Amendment Bill, which passed on a division by 41 votes to 29.

Transport Minister Rob Storey moved the third reading of the Transit New Zealand Amendment Bill (No 2).

Debate was interrupted when the House adjourned for dinner at 6pm and resumed at 7pm.

The bill passed its third reading on a division by 39 votes to 23.

Parliament then passed the third readings of the Public Works Amendment Bill, the Valuers Amendment Bill and the Gaming and Lotteries Amendment Bill.

Education Minister Lockwood Smith moved the third reading of the Education Amendment Bill, which was passed.

The third reading debate of the Housing Corporation Amendment Bill was interrupted when the House adjourned at midnight.

Parliament will resume at 9am today.
Especialistas de la Organización Panamericana de Salud evaluaron el Laboratorio de Alta Seguridad.
Especialistas internacionales en vacunas evalúan el Laboratorio de Alta Seguridad

los visitantes son representantes de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud

El notable científico nor-ameriquense nos ha visitado por lo menos en cinco oportunidades, mientras se iba desarrollando, en Fort De- trick, la vacuna. "Yo siempre fui optimista con respecto al hallazgo de una vacuna contra la VHA. Y admiro la labor de los científicos argentinos, por sus conocimientos sobre la enfermedad y su tratamiento", le preguntamos los recuerdos que movieron al gobierno de los Estados Unidos a contribuir en el desarrollo de la Candid I y si eran políticas, económicas o humanitarias.

Respondió: "Uno tiene que dividir los motivos de la gente que trabajó en el proyecto y de los recursos disponibles. El gobierno hace su negocio (como cualquier otro), desarrollando proyectos que son de su interés. Aunque muchos de nosotros queremos ayudar aquí, eso no es el motivo por el cual el Congreso nos da la plata. No obstante, los que trabajamos, nos sentimos bien.

La preparación de una vacuna a virus atenuado -manifestó el doctor C.J. Peters, jefe de la Disease Assessment División, del MIDRIID (dependencia Ejército de los Estados dos, con sede en Fort De- trick, Estado de Mary- land) es una cosa fácil", idéntica de sabiduría y acerada técnica, requiere especial habilidad humana, agregó completando un elogio a Julio Barrera Oro, padre de la Candid I, que objetivamente hizo extensivo a Julio Maiztegui, y un constante y una tendencia sobrealimenten- te.\n
\* Los visitantes

En horas de la mañana estaban acompañando a Maiztegui, los doctores Alexis Shelokov, director de Vaccine Research, del Instituto Salk; Chung K. Lee, director de Quality Control and Quality Assurance, del Instituto Salk; Aktira Homma, regional advisor on Biologicals de la Pan American Health Organization y Francisco Pinheiro, regional advisor on Viral Diseases, también de la Pan American Health Organization; el ya mencionado doctor Peters y la vidrística argentina Marta Sabattini. En diálogos con todos ellos, LA OPINION, recogió los siguientes conceptos:

- Del doctor Chung K. Lee (neotermicano)
  "Estamos aquí para comprometer que punto es- tán preparados para desarrollar inmunizaciones a Candid I, y otras vacunas. La producción de Candid I, es en general reducida y resultaría muy cara si este laboratorio la fabricara so- lentamente. Creo que se po- drán ampliar muchos de los campos de investigación en materia de virus, aquí."

- Del doctor Aktira Homma (brasileña)
  "Nos encontramos aquí evaluando el trabajo impor- tante, que realizaron Julio Barrera Oro y Julio Maiztegui, junto con el apo- yo de los científicos norteamericanos y la colaboración de la Oficina Panamericana de la Salud. Se trató de una de las pocas vacunas desarrolladas en el continente. Creo que estos- mos en condiciones de indicar alternativas que serán muy importantes para esta región."

- Del doctor Francisco Pinheiro (brasileño)
  "He tenido el gusto de estar aquí varias veces. Ahora vamos a colaborar en el análisis de producción de la vacuna, como cierre de un proyecto muy exitoso, que viene de varios años, gracias al trabajo de Barrera Oro y de Maiztegui. Forma- mos parte de la Organiza- ción Panamericana de la Salud, como grupo técnico especializado en aspectos de su produ- cción y también la ampliación de trabajos so- bre otros virus."

- De la doctora Marta Sabattini
  "Yo soy local" (dice sonriente y evitando recordar que es hija del celebre direc- gente radical cordobés, Amadeo Sabattini). Y agre- ga: "Estoy al lado del doctor Maiztegui, en la actual campaña de vacunación, dentro de la cual Córdoba está incluida, en base a los estudios que hemos hecho allí. La preocupación por el ca- llo de los rastrojos es gran- de en algunas partes de nuestro país, donde la inciden- cia es alta. Ese es el tipo de que solicita con más insis- tencia la vacunación, ubicada en lugares donde la can- didad de enfermos ha sido mayor en los últimos cinco años".

- Del doctor C. J. Peters
  El notable científico nor-meriquense nos ha visitado por lo menos en cinco oportuni- dades, mientras se iba desarrollando, en Fort De- trick, la vacuna. "Yo siempre fui optimista con respecto al hallazgo de una vacuna contra la VHA. Y admiro la labor de los científicos argentinos, por sus conocimientos sobre la enfermedad y su tratamiento", le preguntamos los recuerdos que movieron al gobierno de los Estados Unidos a contribuir en el desarrollo de la Candid I y si eran políticas, económicas o humanitarias.

Respondió: "Uno tiene que dividir los motivos de la gente que trabajó en el proyecto y de los recursos disponibles. El gobierno hace su negocio (como cualquier otro), desarrollando proyectos que son de su interés. Aunque muchos de nosotros queremos ayudar aquí, eso no es el motivo por el cual el Congreso nos da la plata. No obstante, los que trabajamos, nos sentimos bien. Siempre se siente bien quien trabaja para ayudar a la gente sea de donde sea. En este caso particular hemos forjado vínculos perso- nales y sensacionales. "Barrera Oro y Maiztegui son seres excepcionales. Claro que con ellos ya hemos formado vínculos personales" (expresa como restando trascendencia a los elogios que emitimos al comien- zo de esta nota).

"Para encontrar una va- cuna hay que tener carácter y una gran honestidad (honesty), sin tratar de hacer chantaje. Hay que en- frentar los problemas y superarlos, con carácter, repito y no solamente con fria ciencia..."