

# Germ Warfare Ban Is Expected To Have Slight Effect on Detrick

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President Nixon's ban on germ warfare is expected to have little effect on the operations and the number of personnel at Fort Detrick, Md., the nation's biological warfare research and development center.

Sen. Charles McC. Mathias Jr. (R-Md.) said yesterday after a meeting with Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird that it was his impression that "there will be no major impact on the basic research in defensive systems and safety" being conducted at Detrick.

Col. Lucien Winegar, deputy commanding officer at Detrick, said it would be "fair to assume" that Detrick will continue to produce dangerous organisms that could be used offensively, since any defense against biological weapons involves production of harmful

agents that are potentially available to an enemy.

Rep. J. Glenn Beall Jr. (R-Md.), whose congressional district includes Detrick, said Pentagon officials had informed him that the post's function "would not be changed much."

In his announcement yesterday, Mr. Nixon said that the U.S. would destroy its bacteriological weapons stockpiles and will confine biological research to defensive and safety measures. Detrick officials emphasized again yesterday that the post does not stockpile weapons, instead shipping all large supplies to the Pine Bluff (Ark.) Arsenal.

Mathias said that Laird also "gave me no reason to anticipate any serious personnel dislocations at (Detrick) . . . as a result of the new national policies."

Detrick, about 45 miles north of Washington in Fred-

erick, employs 2,600 civilian and military personnel. As the largest employer in the Frederick area, the fort pumps about \$25 million a year into the local economy through payrolls and contracts.

Among the diseases involved in the work at Detrick are pneumonic plague, tularemia, brucellosis, anthrax, encephalitis, glanders, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, undulant fever, psittacosis, cholera, botulism and coccidioidomycosis.

Mathias said the President's announcement "gives us new incentives to explore ways to make more of this research available for the public's benefit and to link Fort Detrick more closely with other federal civilian research installations" such as the National Institutes of Health and the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.