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CSIS BIOTECHNOLOGY COUNCIL TACKLES BIOTERRORISM DEFENSE NEEDS
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In light of the recent Anthrax incidents, the need to accelerate the development, approval and production of new vaccines, detection methods and therapeutics against bioweapon agents has become paramount. Members of the CSIS Council on Biotechnology Research, Innovation and Public Policy discussed these pressing issues in an October 18th, 2001 meeting. The speakers, including Dr. Eric Eisenstadt of the Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects (l), Dr. Mich B. Hein of Epicyte Pharmaceuticals (r), Dr. Franklin H. Top of Medimmune Inc., Dr. Isi Siddiqui of the American Crop Protection Association, Dr. Bruce M. Chassy of the University of Illinois, Urbana and Ms. Jo Husbands of the National Academy of Sciences, stressed the importance of developing a better regulatory system to approve biotechnology products and the need for the government and private sector cooperation in vaccine development and production.