

## REPORT OF CONTACT

NOTE: This form must be filled out in ink or on typewriter, as it becomes a permanent record in veterans' folders.

VA OFFICE	IDENTIFICATION NOS. (C, XC, SS, XSS, V, K, etc.)
DVB - VACO	
LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE NAME OF VETERAN (Type or print)	DATE OF CONTACT
N/A	4/2/79
ADDRESS OF VETERAN	TELEPHONE NO. OF VETERAN
PERSON CONTACTED	TYPE OF CONTACT (Check)
William Halpern, M. D. - MPH, Medical Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TELEPHONE
ADDRESS OF PERSON CONTACTED	TELEPHONE NO. OF PERSON CONTACTED
Industry Wide Study Branch, NIH 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio	

BRIEF STATEMENT OF INFORMATION REQUESTED AND GIVEN

Dr. Halpern called Drs. Jacoby and Schepers to say that he has been directed from on high and via his Branch Chief (Richard Lemon) to inquiry into the feasibility of an epidemiological study of the person who were exposed to 2,4,5,-TCL in the Monsanto factory at Nitro, West VA about 30 years ago. Dr. Halpern had no special information about this incident and we provided him with the information available to us. We referred him to the Air Force study of Agent Orange as a general reference.

We asked Dr. Halpern how he came to contact us and he said that his response was a direct result of Mr. Cleland's letter to the Secretary for DHEW. I asked Dr. Halpern when they had been notified of this letter. He stated that Mr. Califano's directive had been issued about a month previously, but that it took all these weeks for the memorandum to traverse the bureaucracy via the Surgeon General and the Director of NIOSH (Dr. Robin) who is new to the system.

Dr. Halpern will explore what can be done and promised to keep in touch with us. He had no clear notion where to start. I suggested that he might seek contacts in the Monsanto Chemical Co first, since the company undoubtedly has some medical records which have not been published. We promised to help Dr. Halpern with such endeavors if he encounters problems. I said so because I did considerable research for Monsanto many years ago and will present a paper based on some of this research during November this year. I may therefore still have an entrée there because of prior friendly associations.

We regard this contact as the first clear evidence of a response by DHEW to our efforts to get them interested in the epidemiology of the dioxin controversy. We shall follow this up assiduously.

DIVISION OR SECTION	EXECUTED BY SIGNATURE AND TITLE
Medical Service (111)	GERRIT W. H. SCHEPERS, M. D. Program Chief for Cardiopulmonary Diseases

VA FORM 119  
JUL 1977

EXISTING STOCKS OF VA FORM 119,  
JUL 1974, WILL BE USED.