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FEBRUARY 25, 1982

Dear RICHARD:

JUST A NOTE IN REGARD TO THE ATTACHED ARTICLE ON "Agent" Orange. The term "agent" is a MEDIA HYPE, since we never heard the term until 1975 in the press. As you may know I SERVED AS A DEFOLIANT PILOT IN VIETNAM AND AS A TECHNICAL ADVISOR TO THE ORIGINAL Presidential Committee on the effects of herbicides on humans. I am scheduled to begin the 20 year long MEDICAL STUDY AT THE KELSEY-SEYBOLD CLINIC IN HOUSTON ON 8 MARCH.

DURING THE Congressional HEARINGS AND THE MEDICAL STUDY planning conferences, THE TOP INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS TESTIMONY HAVE CONVINCED ME THAT IT WILL TAKE A PROGRAM (PARTICULARLY AN OBJECTIVE PROGRAM) SUCH AS THE KELSEY-SEYBOLD ONE TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTS OF HERBICIDES - IF ANY. A MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY STUDY IS ALSO UNDERWAY.

There were 1,250 RANCH HAND DEFOLIATORS AND WE ARE STILL A VERY CLOSE GROUP. We were unquestionably the most EXPOSED group in Vietnam getting doused on a daily basis FOR A YEAR WITH NOT ONLY Orange but ALSO White, Purple and BLUE DEFOLIANTS. OUR personnel have not exhibited the problems claimed by many veterans. I sincerely hope the LARGE SUMS BEING spent by N.J. ARE NOT DUPLICATIVE of ongoing programs. I would appreciate a copy of your findings.

Sincerely