



REGIONAL SECURITY
AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2400



22 March 1994

Professor Arnold Schecter
Preventive Medicine
SUNY Health Science Center
Clinical Campus at Binghamton
88 Aldrich Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13903

Dear Professor Schecter:

I read your article, "Second International Conference on Agent Orange Held in Hanoi," in the Indochina Interchange, March 1994, and I wanted to bring the following to your attention.

In early January I accompanied Senator Bennett Johnston to Vietnam. During an early January luncheon in Hanoi, Mr. Vu Dinh Cu, Chairman of the National Assembly's Science, Technology and Environment Committee, informed Senator Johnston that Vietnam was concerned with the levels of dioxyn in the area in Central Vietnam where a 720 metawatt hydroelectric plant was being constructed. Mr. Cu raised some questions regarding the quantity of dioxyn that might have been sprayed in the area, and Senator Johnston told Mr. Cu that he would look into the matter. The Senator referred the question to me.

I requested that the U.S. Army and Joint Services Environmental Support Group conduct a computer analysis to see whether any herbicide spray applications were conducted within 25 kilometers of three coordinates in the vicinity of Chu Pah district and the Ya Krong Bolah river: ZA015710, ZA060750 and YA905735. The Ranch Hand and Service Herbs computer tapes utilized to generate this information include all herbicide spray missions conducted using fixed wing, helicopter or ground spray applications.

According to the data base, twenty-three Agent Orange and twenty-one non-Agent Orange spray missions were conducted within 25 kilometers of ZA015710 during 1966-1969. Fourteen Agent Orange and 21 non-Agent Orange spray missions were conducted within 25 kilometers of ZA060750 during 1962-1970. Finally, 79 Agent Orange and 46 non-Agent Orange spray missions were conducted within 25 kilometers of YA905735 during 1962-1970.

Copies of the computer runs for the three coordinates were forwarded to the Senator for transmittal to Mr. Cu, and

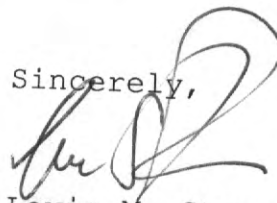


were also provided to the Foreign Ministry by the U.S. Joint Task Force for Full Accounting detachment in Hanoi.

I thought you might be interested in the National Assembly's attentiveness to this issue, the extent to which the Vietnamese are concerned that infrastructure development projects such as the Ya Ly hydroelectric plant will encounter difficulties related to Agent Orange or non-Agent Orange spray applications, and Senator Johnston's involvement in attempting to provide answers to Mr. Cu.

I presume you are aware of the data base over which the U.S. Army and Joint Services Environmental Support Group presides, and the fact that this data base is available in hard copy form from the National Technical Information Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. M. Stern', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Lewis M. Stern
Director for Indochina