



CONSULATE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Da Nang, Viet Nam
APO San Francisco 96349

November 16, 1970

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

Professor Matthew Meselson
Professor of Biology
Harvard University
Biological Laboratories
16 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Meselson:

Please forgive this tardy reply to your letter of September 16. I would like to thank you very much for the copies of the studies on chemical crop destruction. I read them both with interest and was impressed with the carefully reasoned arguments against the use of herbicides in populated areas.

As you are perhaps aware, the question of future use of any herbicides is again being considered by the American Mission. My position on crop destruction is that it should not be employed within range of populated areas. I believe it can only be justified, if then, when targeted against crops being grown deep in the mountains and where there is good evidence that the cultivation is being done directly by or for the VC. Since in only rare cases can these conditions be met, the acceptance of them would virtually end the program.

It was indeed a pleasure meeting you and your colleague in Quang Ngai. I hope that you will send me a copy of your report when it is completed. If you do again visit Viet Nam, please come and see us in Da Nang.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Francis T. McNamara".

Francis T. McNamara
American Consul