

American Committee on Africa



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February 2, 1971

Dr. Matthew S. Meselson
Department of Biology
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Meselson:

Pursuant to our conversation this date, I am enclosing a copy of the letter received from Senator J.W. Fulbright concerning the use of herbicides in Angola.

Attached find a copy of my letter to the Senator of January 25th which enclosed your report on the assessment of herbicides used in Vietnam and reports on such use by the Portuguese in Angola.

Our Committee is faced with a rather difficult task in confirming the MPLA allegations in time for the Fulbright hearings. There is sufficient evidence already available, however, to indicate the use of herbicides in Angola. Our concern is to discover the kinds of such chemicals employed and their source of manufacture. All signs seem to point to the celebrated Dow Chemical company.

It does seem likely that Senator Fulbright will ask you to testify as an expert witness on the effects of herbicides generally. I will keep you informed of developments from this end.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Hightower
Washington Director

CH:lb

2 Encl (s)

January 25, 1971

Senator J. M. Fulbright
United States Senate
1215 New Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Senator Fulbright:

Reference is made to the final report of the Herbicide Assessment Commission for the American Association for the Advancement of Science on the subject of the effects of such chemicals on the land and the peoples of South Vietnam.

Recently, I spoke to Dr. Matthew S. Meselson of Harvard University and chairman of the herbicide commission concerning reports received by my office that the Portuguese have employed similar chemical defoliant and herbicides in Angola.

Accordingly, I am enclosing for your attention these reports on the use of herbicides in Angola by the Portuguese which include an allegation by the Movimento Popular de Libertacao de Angola (MPLA) that at least one of these chemicals, picloram, is manufactured by Dow Chemical Company, with the commercial name of Tordon.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Hightower
Washington Director

CH:lb

6 Encl (s)