

11 November 1971

Mrs. Marie Ripley
c/o Guhin
National Security Council
Executive Offices of the President
Washington, D. C. 20506

Dear Mrs. Ripley,

Here is a copy of the Sierra Club Bulletin with an article by John Constable and me about our study of the effects of herbicides in Vietnam. The day before yesterday I spent the afternoon at the National Academy of Sciences viewing photographs taken last month of many of the same areas we visited one year earlier. To a first approximation the sprayed mangrove forests look just as barren as they did in 1970. However, on close examination of the newer photographs we saw some areas in which seedlings quite definitely had begun to grow.

I have a report on the effects of herbicides written by a Vietnamese Professor of botany who accompanied our group as well as that of the Academy. I want to send it to Dr. Guhin but it is in French. Can you let me know how good his French is? It wouldn't be much trouble for us to prepare a translation.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson

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