

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
16 DIVINITY AVENUE  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

10 July 1972

Dr. Frank Barnaby  
SIPRI  
Sveavagen 166  
S-113 46 Stockholm  
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Dear Frank,

I am afraid I have not given much attention to the problem of incendiary weapons. Certainly there is a long history to bring them under control, especially during the disarmament discussions and negotiations in Geneva in the 1930s. The pendulum swings.

I can think of only two persons who might be useful to you as specialists. The first is Dr. John Constable (Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts 02114), a surgeon who specializes in the repair of burns. He has been in Vietnam three times, once for USAID, once for a volunteer relief group and once with me. He knows a lot about burns and is a very intelligent and articulate person. He has not thought much about arms control. The other person I know much less well, having only talked with him on the telephone. However, he is a real expert on forest and brush fires, having conducted a large study under contract with the U.S. Army, Prof. Robert B. Bachelder (Department of Geography, Boston University, 111 Cummington Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02215). I believe I mentioned the following reference to Julian Robinson when he was here:

Bachelder, R.B. and Hirt, H.F., Fire in Tropical Forests and Grasslands, Earth Sciences Division, Natick (Massachusetts) Army Laboratories, ES-23 (1966).

There is a classified paper about which you could at least enquire at ARPA at the Department of Defense:

Forest Fire Research, Final Report-Phase I. Vol.1., U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service. ARPA Order No. 818. Washington, D.C. January 1966. Classification: Secret.

You are probably also aware of the Department of the Army Training Circular TC 3-16:

Employment of Riot Control Agents, Flame, Smoke, Antiplant Agents, and Personnel Detectors in Counter guerrilla Operations, April 1969.

Finally, there is an unclassified reference to the Firestorm Project conducted in Vietnam. This involved defoliation of approximately 100,000 acres of forest followed by an attempt to ignite it with air-dropped incendiary bombs. This particular effort, entitled "Operation Pink Rose," and similar efforts were <sup>not</sup> very successful. The reference is:

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McConnell, LTC Arthur F. Jr. (USAF), "Mission: Ranch Hand."  
Air University Review , Jan-Feb 1970, pp. 89-94.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson

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