

Tschirley

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24 August 1973

Dr. Fred H. Tschirley
Pesticides Coordinator
Science and Education Staff
Office of the Secretary
Room 311-E Administration Building
US Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Fred,

Your informant was partly right and partly wrong. On page 3-3-3, ("The National Academy of Sciences field team did not even look into this question, or the reported finding of dioxin in Vietnamese mother's milk") there is no mention of 40 ppt or any other level. Of course, the fact that we collected mother's milk in 1970 is contained in our December 1970 "Preliminary Report" to the AAAS. However, as you know, we have refrained from reporting any results with milk until all the samples, both 1970 and 1973, are completely analyzed. So far as I can see, there would be no point in sending any kind of correction to NBC since, as you know, we are indeed finding a few ppt of TCDD in mother's milk. Incidentally, if the NBC program mentioned no specific level, where did the value 40 ppt, cited by the person with whom you spoke, come from?

Enclosed is a write-up of our new analytical procedure in which the glc step is replaced by an additional column chromatographic separation on alumina. Bob finds that this improves the yield and, of course, it is simpler.

Following up our telephone conversation regarding the interpretation of TCDD levels that might be found in human tissue, I know of no current TCDD feeding studies with primates. If indeed there are none underway, is there any possibility that the Department of Agriculture could perform or stimulate the rather standard long term feeding experiment that is needed? If there is anything we can do that would help in any of these matters, please let me know.

With best regards to you and Mary,

Matt

Matthew Meselson

P.S. I also enclose our paper for the ACS meeting in Chicago next week and a memo on pentachlorophenol. As mentioned in the memo, we find no report of TCDD in pentachlorophenol. Do you have any information to the contrary?