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DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

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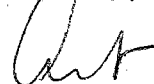
Dear Matt:

I have just received information that the government of Rhodesia is employing herbicides for denial of cover and food to insurgent forces in that country. The material comes from the April 1975 issue of the magazine of The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Rhodesia. The relevant paragraph, on p. 16, states

"In the Zambezi Valley where it is Government policy to destroy all vegetation to deny cover and food to the insurgents the defoliation scheme carries with it the possibility of some disquieting side effects. Toward the end of 1974 there were reports from one border area of a strange illness which caused children to shake violently and sometimes to die. The visiting doctor ascribed this to the spraying of vegetation from the air with defoliants earlier that year. Urgent enquiry to the Ministry of Health confirmed that an illness had been identified "the actual cause of which was not finally proven" and added without any further elaboration or substantiation that "there is no evidence to connect the spraying with the outbreak". The maize crops in the same area were again sprayed in January 1975, presumably to destroy any food sources which might sustain insurgents."

This material came via Dr. Selina Bendix, Environmental Review Officer of the Department of City Planning, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, California 94102.

Sincerely,



Arthur W. Galston  
Professor of Biology

AWG:af

PS: I delivered the copy of the Bayhman thesis to Tom That Tunz. He was grateful. Do you have another copy I might have? It would be useful in all sorts of ways.