

Milford

**NATIONAL  
VETERANS  
LAW  
CENTER**

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*Yes -  
Please send  
report*

July 22, 1981

Professor Matthew Messelson  
Biological Laboratories  
Harvard University  
16 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Professor Messelson:

I know of your work with the Agent Orange issue and thought that you would be interested in some material the Center obtained recently in a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit. Instead of sending you the material, I will summarize it here and I hope that you will find the time to write me about the material.

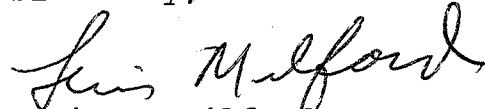
First, the National Veterans Law Center is a public interest law firm that represents veterans on Agent Orange matters. We have brought lawsuits and used other means to try to change the government policy. I am, along with other attorneys at the Center, on the faculty of The American University law school in Washington.

As I mentioned, the FOIA lawsuit was brought to obtain a copy of an Air Force report which has been prepared by the Office of Air Force history. The report is intended to be a history of Operation Ranchhand. It contains rather candid descriptions of the government policy decisions at the Rusk/MacNamara level that preceded the Vietnamese use of herbicides under U.S. direction. It also describes the crop destruction emphases of the operations, both by the Vietnamese at first and then by the United States. My purpose in writing you is to have informed scholars in the field review the report to see if new information is contained in it. I was surprised that the report was as frank as

it was about the public relations aspects of the operation and I suspect that the report may be of significant historical value for students of the decisionmaking process during the Vietnam war.

I sincerely hope that you will find the time to write me for the report. I am also writing to others for their help and I would be happy to discuss this with you. Feel free to call me if you are interested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lewis M. Milford". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Lewis M. Milford, Esq.

LMM:bas