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The Editor
Wall Street Journal
22 Cortlandt Street
New York, N. Y.

"Yellow Rain"--continued

Dear Sir:

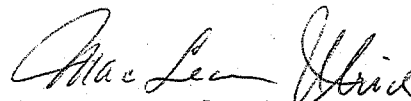
Your most informative article, "Storm Over Asia", page 56, June 29th issue, exposes the remarkable ingenuity of some protagonists for discrediting the growing preponderance of evidence of the introduction, in recent years, of Fusarium poisons ("yellow rain") into Laos and Cambodia. I am impelled to offer my contribution.

~~THIRTY~~ ^{THIRTY}-five or so years, beginning in 1929, of intimate concern with Indochina and So. East Asia comprised extended periods of actual residence and travels to and throughout Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and surrounding areas. This provided wide personal contacts and some close relationships with government officials, health services and doctors, missionaries, merchants, plantation operators, hunters and others, European and native, including contacts with Hmongs, Meos, Mois and other border and jungle peoples. During all these years I, at absolutely no time, heard from any one any reference nor suggestion of anything even vaguely suggestive of "yellow rain".

And dont discount the Laotians, Cambodians, Hmongs and others. They may be unlettered but they are not dumb. In fact, they are smart and acutely observant of all things in nature surrounding them. Had anything resembling "yellow rain" previously been present they would have carefully observed it, given it a name and talked about it in detail. And they know bee excrement when they see it! (HAVING SEEN IT FOR CENTURIES!)

One erudite "nay sayer" even suggests that ^{the} end of the annual dry season is "a period of maximum nutritional stress" (1) and people are led to eat an enormous varriety of foods, some of which might be moldy and cause illness. Well, availability of rice and some other items fluctuates, but the jungle affords a wide variety of edible plants, small animals and even insects. Not appetizing to us perhaps, but untold generations have eaten them with gusto and they have a very precise knowledge of which might cause sickness. It is abundantly obvious that "something new has been added".

Yours very truly,


Mac Lean Ulrich

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