

Hess

September 13, 1983

Mr. John H. Hess III  
Legislative Assistant to  
Senator Mathias  
United States Senate  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Hess:

Thank you for your letter of September 8 asking my evaluation of the evidence for mycotoxin warfare in Southeast Asia. My view is that (1) the evidence for mycotoxin warfare is unconvincing and (2) the data suggests instead that the mycotoxin reported in the blood of alleged victims came from moldy food consumed days or weeks after the alleged attack. I enclose a draft letter to Science which discusses some of the main points at issue. Since the letter has not yet been accepted for publication, please treat it with discretion. The letter summarizes most of the material I presented at a briefing I gave on August 9 to a group at the Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs at the Department of State. Let me know if I can be of any other assistance in this matter.

Please give my regards to Senator Mathias.

Sincerely,

Matthew Meselson  
Professor of Biochemistry

MM/db

Enclosures