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Professor Matthew Meselson  
Department of Biochemistry  
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Harvard University  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Matt:

I have read and reread the draft of your Letter to the Editor dated 15 February, 1985. I have also read the article by Rosen et al. in Nature (313, 271, 1985).

Your thesis, which you have previously stated, is very clear; namely, that yellow rain is probably the faeces of honeybees. Rosen et al. state that you do not directly consider the trichothecene argument. In other words, to me--an interested bystander--it appears that you and Rosen et al. are talking about different things. I gather that you don't believe their experimental evidence for the presence of trichothecenes in certain samples that they have examined. Or is it possibly that their samples have been contaminated in the laboratory?

In any case, I don't think your answer to them adds much to a scientific argument. To me, you are talking about two different subjects. Do you want to address the trichothecene query in your article, or do you prefer to wait and see whether the data that presumably now reside in certain government laboratories will be made public?

This may not be a very helpful reaction to your draft letter, but it is my reaction.

Warmest personal regards.

Yours sincerely,



Elkan R. Blout

ERB:jb