

MANHATTAN APPLIED research division

245 West 13 Street New York, New York 10011

March 29, 1984

Dr. Matthew S. Meselson
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Dr. Meselson:

I admit it: I was one of those who giggled when you asserted that the "yellow rain" in Southeast Asia was not chemical warfare but was the result of "massive defecation flights by wild honeybees."

Sure, I laughed then, but I guess the joke was on me. I was convinced by your account in the papers of being caught in a five minute shower of bee feces that left yellow spots all over you and your car; it sounds terrifying. But that's when I got my idea.

Couldn't such aerial bombardments of bee caca provide personal protection for city folks. I say that a hive in your apartment could be better than a dog in your yard. "Sic 'em!" you'd say to your bees if some burglar tried to get tough. Your hive would scramble and then dive at the scoundrel, bombing him with bee-do! That ought to scare him off, with no permanent damage or threat of litigation.

I'd appreciate any suggestions you have on the best breed of bees to work with, training tips, diet, etc. In fact, if you'd like to come on board as a partner with responsibility for technical matters, I'd be delighted. In any event, I'd very much like to know if you think this is a practicable idea.

How's this for a slogan: "Bees For Defense, But Not One Cent For Tribute!"

Yours,



Randy Cohen

YR