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Dear Prof. Meselson,

The attached material on "yellow rain" might be of interest to you. (The cover page will identify its source.) In the past I have sent copies to Pat Schroeder (House) and Gary Hart (Senate) as well as to Barbara Culliton (Science) after her initial series of articles a couple of years ago. No response from anyone.

Good luck in your investigations! "Illegitimi non carborundum."

Sincerely yours,

Robert H. Chason

Professor of Physics

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PB 131632-128

INFORMATION ON SOVIET BLOC INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL COOPERATION - 1960

*Yellow Rain
p. 15, 14.*

July 22, 1960

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Office of Technical Services
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Tadzhik Institute of Astrophysics Engaged in "Meteor Patrol"

The following is the translation of a photo caption appearing in Izvestiya on 19 June 1960:

The Institute of Astrophysics of the Tadzhik Academy of Sciences has established a scientific laboratory near Stalinabad for the photographic observation of meteors. "On the basis of observations which we have made by use of cameras developed by the staff of this Institute", says Pulat Babadzhanovich Babadzhanov, the Director of the "Meteor Patrol" laboratory, "it is possible to study the physical conditions prevailing in the upper layers of the Earth's atmosphere and meteoric matter in the solar system". [The photograph shows the "Meteor Patrol" equipment.] (Untitled photograph, Izvestiya, 19 June 1960, p. 4)

"Electrical Discharge During the Flight of Meteors in the Earth's Atmosphere"

A four-page article recently appearing in a publication of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR is devoted to electrical discharges during the passage of meteors through the Earth's atmosphere; the article cites 14 bibliographical references. The author is V. P. Dokuchayev of the Radiophysical Scientific Research Institute at Gor'kiy State University im. N. I. Lobachevskiy. ("Electrical Discharge During the Flight of Meteors in the Earth's Atmosphere", by V. P. Dokuchayev, Doklady Akademii Nauk SSSR, Vol. 131, No. 1, 1960, pp. 78-81)

Soviet Popular and Semi-Popular Press Continue Publication of High-Quality Articles on Space Research

Numerous accounts in the Soviet popular and semi-popular press deal with the radiation belts surrounding the Earth. Another such account has appeared in the journal Tekhnika-Molodezhi. Although nothing new is contained in this article that warrants summarization, it is written on a high plane and is typical of the highly technical material on space research that often appears in Soviet periodicals designed for popular consumption. ("Magnetic 'Trap' on the Route to the Cosmos", by I. Ivanenko, Tekhnika-Molodezhi, No. 5, 1960, pp. 35-36)

IV. METEOROLOGY

Yellow Rain Falls in the Georgian SSR

A dispatch published in the Soviet press has reported that colored rain has fallen in the Georgian SSR.

The rain fell at night, states O. Shautidze, Chief of the Kutaisi Meteorological Station; the morning after the window panes in houses, the windows of automobiles, and the leaves of trees were a yellow color.

G. Bukhnikashvili, chief of a meteorological station at the Krestovyy Pass, 2,200 meters above sea level, reports that colored rain has fallen there three times during the past year -- bright yellow in the winter, reddish in March, and yellow in the present instance.

Sh. G. Gavasheli, Director of the Tbilisi Hydrometeorological Observatory, stated that this phenomenon was caused by cool moist air masses coming from the northwest, mixing in the upper layers of the troposphere with warm dry air which had moved from the southwest and which evidently contained a large amount of dust. Such precipitation, he states, is not only easy to explain, but is also completely harmless. ("Weather Forecasts Do Not Predict Such Things", Izvestiya, 15 June 1960, p. 6)

New Soviet Weather Ship Makes Trial Run In Black Sea

The new weather ship "Shokal'skiy" approached the wharves of the port of Odessa a few days ago. It had undergone a test run in the Black Sea for several days. We asked one of the leaders of the expedition -- the Director of the Central Aerological Observatory, G. I. Golyshev, to tell about the first cruise of the ship and the work which it will accomplish in the future.

"The 'Shokal'skiy' is an expeditionary ship which has only recently left the ship yards at Nikolayev", said G. I. Golyshev. "This vessel is an exact replica of the 'Voyeykov', the first Soviet ship of the Hydrometeorological Service, now conducting research in the Pacific Ocean".

"At the time of the voyage the sixteen laboratories aboard the vessel were engaged in a variety of scientific investigations. The ship was equipped with apparatus for the launching of meteorological rockets from the deck. The instruments located in the nose of such a rocket transmit data about the state of the atmosphere to heights of 80 km. Radio receiving apparatus on board receives information about temperature and pressure and about the character of solar radiation. At the time of the tests aboard the 'Shokal'skiy' five meteorological rockets were launched. All transmitting instruments and receiving apparatus operated faultlessly".

"The investigation of the atmosphere over the ocean is of great importance to science. The ship can conduct observations in different latitudes. It will become a very mobile scientific station, situated thousands of miles from land, but quickly transmitting all data to the weather service".

"In addition to the launching of rockets the men aboard the weather ship conduct all the meteorological observations customary for meteorological stations; the launching of radiosondes enables us to judge about the state of the atmosphere to heights of 30 km. The scientific laboratories of the 'Shokal'skiy' are also conducting an extensive program of oceanographic observations".

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