

Hartman

May 7, 1984
1604 Ralworth Road
Baltimore MD 21218

Editor, SUNDAY Sun
501 North Calvert St
Baltimore MD

Dear Sir:

In covering the talk at the Johns Hopkins University by Dr. Matthew Meselson on "yellow-rain", Albert Sehlstedt (THE SUN, Sunday, May 6, 1984) did imply that one line of evidence against the theory that yellow-rain represented warfare with toxic chemicals is the total lack of detection of contaminated delivery vehicles. No spent or unspent chemical munitions have been found in Southeast Asia although over 100 attacks have been alleged and artillery shells and rockets implicated. In fact, Dr. Meselson's presented evidence extended quite far beyond this one negative observation. Dr. Meselson presented positive evidence demonstrating clear differences in pollen types present in separate spots of yellow-rain. Even separate spots of yellow-rain that had fallen on the same leaf were strikingly heterogenous with regard to pollen content. This is exactly what one would expect to find from bee droppings, as opposed to a homogeneity that would certainly be the case were a man-made aerosol involved. Additionally, all of the six pollen types found in the eleven yellow-rain samples Meselson tested were from insect pollinated plant types identified as common in Southeast Asia. The six pollen types also were detected in asian bees and in honey from Thailand. As the General in McGonigle of the Chronicle concluded in the April 30th Morning Sun cartoon: "Compared to the layers of bureaucracy (in Washington DC), a layer of bee doo won't amount to much..." McGonigle's Sarah replied: "Yes...again the resilience of our Nation will triumph." Triumph, however, does not arise from failing to admit one's obvious mistakes and lack of expertise while peoples in Southeast Asia live in ^{false} fear of a natural phenomenon, one ever present but only recently publicized.

Sincerely yours,

Philip E. Hartman
Philip E. Hartman

Home: 467-8055
Business: 338-7291 (Professor of
Biology, The Johns Hopkins Univ.,
for purposes of identification
only.)