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DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



7 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

June 12, 1984

Honorable Mel Levine ✓
House of Representatives
502 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Levine:

Thank you for your letter of May 10 regarding 'yellow rain'. For your possible interest I enclose four items. The first is a long article from Chemical and Engineering News which brings together a great deal of information on the yellow rain phenomenon. The other three items describe analyses and observations made by my colleagues and me.

I think it is unlikely that mycotoxins have been used as weapons in Southeast Asia or Afghanistan. Government scientists from chemical defense laboratories in the U.S. and allied countries with whom I have spoken during the past several months are becoming quite doubtful of the mycotoxin hypothesis. There is a need for a qualified respected group to undertake and publish a thorough report of the problem along with concrete proposals that might resolve it. This needs to be done if public officials and others are to draw conclusions and formulate policies more soundly based than can be done at present.

I will be away from Cambridge until July 27, telephone messages to my office (617 495-2264) will reach me during that time. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Matthew Meselson
Professor of Biochemistry