

26 September 1985

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Dear Matt,

Lovely to hear from ^{you} and to receive the Scientific American piece. I read it with great interest and enjoyment. You people have done a great job.

Enclosed is a piece from the Age -- the main daily here in Melbourne -- which plunders the article by Kucewicz from the WSJ. The writer, M. Barnard, is one of Australia's most conservative columnists, and not influential like Kucewicz. In fact your opinions have had a good run here. Nicholas Wade's article from the NYT was run some weeks back. However, if you have time, I would be interested in some clarification of the statement from you which they both quote concerning the "bee theory" not being "attractive any more". It's being taken as a statement that you are repudiating the theory. I'm interested because I'm still regularly approached by media to comment on these things, so some clarification would be very helpful to me.

To Jerry Daniels: Early this year I met up with Major Alec Longhurst from Australian Military Intelligence who is working on secondment with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is a very nice guy. Well, Alec was working in Thailand at the same time Jerry Daniels was there and they both worked together on and discussed matters relating to yellow rain. Initially Alec too believed the allegations, with some reservations, and it was only after he returned to Australia, read my book, talked to other people in the defence establishment here, that he began to have serious doubts. These doubts were hardened by the poor performance of the US team which came here to brief the Australian Government on yellow rain some two years ago. Alec is an expert on artillery, and with respect to the allegations from Kampuchea sees the various descriptions given as matching a very skillful use of artillery and smoke shells, as much as anything else. Anyway, Alec has kept in touch with Daniels, whom he likes and trusts, (Daniels is now based in Hong Kong he tells me) and says that Daniels no longer believes the yellow rain allegations, and it appears *he* was ignored and treated quite badly when he returned to Washington because he expressed doubts about the charges.

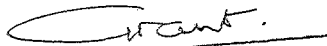
That's about all I know. However I'm sure you could contact Alec for more information. He is very approachable and pleasant. If you wanted to write to him simply address mail to the Indochina Desk, Department of Foreign Affairs, Canberra, A.C.T., Australia. Or, phone 61 2512. At home: 48 9249. Meanwhile, I shall send a copy of your SA article to him and tell him that you may get in touch.

Julian told me in a letter earlier this year that he had heard while in

Washington that I had been put up to writing my book by the Australian Government. What is the attitude to it there now? Is it considered amateurish, left wing eye-wash, or simply ignored?

Give my regards to Jeanne.

best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Grant", written over a horizontal line.

Grant Evans