

Dean

**Subject:** Query about "yellow rain"  
**From:** Johnmartinedean@aol.com  
**Date:** Tue, 10 Apr 2007 10:42:31 EDT  
**To:** msm@wjh.harvard.edu

Dear Professor Meselson:

I was traveling when I received your query about "yellow rain." I will try to answer your question once I have consulted the inventory of documents I donated to the U.S. National Archives regarding messages received and sent by me during my tenure as U.S. ambassador to Thailand. Stape Roy was my outstanding deputy during the first part of my tour. He was followed by an equally able Foreign Service Officer, Charles Freeman (later U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia).

As for my discussing CBW with President Reagan, I can tell you, without looking at the detailed documents on my tenure in Thailand, that I never discussed this subject with President Reagan.

You should also realize that DIA, CIA, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and the U.S. military all had separate secure communications back to their headquarters in Washington, and many messages were never shown or discussed with the Deputy Chief of Mission (Roy or Freeman) for coordination. All I can tell you at this stage is that, unfortunately, there was a lot of rivalry and conflicting interests among different intelligence agencies working under the jurisdiction of the Embassy, and that this forced me at one point to ask a CIA officer and a DIA officer to be transferred from Thailand. You will find this story in a *Newsweek* article of that time.

I also note that working with the Hmong people was handled in the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok nearly exclusively by CIA. The data supplied by the CIA and DIA were then used in Washington by officials for their political purposes.

The voluminous documents on Thailand that I donated to the U.S. National Archives will not be declassified before 2010, but I am willing to discuss my tenure in Thailand with you in Paris on the basis of the detailed inventory of my donation.

With kind regards,

John Gunther Dean

p.s. You may also wish to consult the Oral History I recorded over a period of seven years with the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training in Arlington, Virginia. This Oral History was put on the Internet by the U.S. authorities, and you can consult the chapter on Thailand via the Jimmy Carter Library, which is an integral part of the U.S. National Archives.

I agree with you that bringing out the truth about all controversial issues is important for our own credibility and long-term national interest.

Thai ambassador 1981-1985