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The Honorable John Deutch
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

30 April 1996

Dear John,

When we met at the National Academy earlier this month I promised to write to you regarding a document that seems potentially important enough to bring to your attention.

The document, "Foreign Medical Materiel Exploitation Program Report", by Richard Torian, dated April 1987, is enclosed. It was sent to me anonymously in the mail. From its content and appearance, I have no reason to think it classified.

Torian worked at the Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center (AFMIC), a DIA unit at Fort Detrick. He participated in the AFMIC program that, during 1981-1985, received biomedical samples from Southeast Asia from alleged victims of chemical attacks and from control individuals. The samples, mainly blood and urine, were sent to outside contractors for mycotoxin analysis and the results were reported back to AFMIC.

The Torian document states that mycotoxins were reported present not only in samples from alleged victims but also in samples from control individuals. Moreover, the average concentrations of mycotoxins reported for positive samples from control individuals were actually higher than those reported for positive samples from alleged victims of CW attacks.

This contradicts what the public and many USG officials have been given to believe. USG statements and open publications citing biomedical samples from control individuals stated them to be entirely negative. If this is incorrect, the positive reports for samples from alleged victims cannot be taken as evidence for charges that mycotoxins were used as weapons in Southeast Asia, charges that two US Presidents repeatedly made on the basis of information given to them.

If the fact that control samples were reported to AFMIC as positive was withheld, that would appear to have been a serious violation of scientific integrity, misleading to the public and to officials called upon to make and execute US foreign and defense policy.

I realize that your time is heavily committed to other matters of more urgent present concern. Yet your efforts to bring increased accountability and credibility to the US intelligence community lead me to think that you may wish to see this matter resolved. In particular, if the responsible US officials and consultants were not made aware of positive reports of mycotoxins in samples from control individuals, how did this lapse occur and how can similar problems be avoided in future?

In closing, I would appreciate being instructed as to whether I may cite data from the Torian document in the open literature.

With best regards,

Matthew

Matthew Meselson