

Subject: Fwd: Our Conversation on CBW and Herbicide History (UNCLASSIFIED)
From: Matthew Meselson <msmeselson@gmail.com>
To: Sandy Ropper <ropper@fas.harvard.edu>

Nice man...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Goldman, David I Mr CIV USA** <david.i.goldman@us.army.mil>
Date: Wed, Nov 17, 2010 at 3:55 PM
Subject: Our Conversation on CBW and Herbicide History (UNCLASSIFIED)
To: msm@wjh.harvard.edu

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Dr. Meselson,

As promised, I am sending you this message so that you have my contact information.

Here is the CMH pamphlet I mentioned. It briefly discusses the 203 Committee on pp. 90-91.

<http://www.history.army.mil/books/Vietnam/tactical/index.htm#Contents>

As I noted on the phone, your best bet at NARA, College Park, would be to look at the MACV files and see if they have a sub-series for Seventh Air Force. The MACV files are fairly voluminous, but as I understand it NARA has relatively detailed finding aids. Archival research can be a slow and often frustrating process. You usually have to give yourself at least one day alone to sort through the finding aids. My guess is that you may be able to track down some of the 203 Committee files, but you may not be able to locate the exact report you want.

Another option would be to check with the Air Force History Office. They may have some of the reports on Operation RANCH HAND.

Here is the webpage for the State Department Foreign Relations volume I did on Nixon's Arms Control policies.

<http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1969-76ve02>

Also, the document I found on line that dealt with Nixon's decision on toxins at Key Biscayne was entitled, "NSDM 44: U.S. Policy on Toxins and National Security Decision Memorandum 44." I found it at the Thomas Gale, Declassified Documents Reference System website. It is a private subscription service that I can get through DOD.

I have also attached the link for my Vietnam volume. I quickly scanned through it and it does still contain a few documents on herbicide matters. The report you were looking for would not have been included in the volume because it was an operations-level report. Because of space limitations, the Foreign Relations series usually just includes the highest-level policy documents. However, the report could have been included in the original files as an attachment or it could have been referenced in one of the other reports there. The source information in Foreign Relations can be used as first step in trying to track down lower-level material, although there is no way to guarantee that a specific document will be found.

<http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1969-76v07/media/pdf/frus1969-76v07.pdf>

I hope this helps. Let me know when you next expect to be in town.

Sincerely,

David

David I. Goldman, Historian

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