

January 12, 1970

Dr. Stephen Rose
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Walton Hall
Walton
Blethley
Buckinghamshire
England

Dear Stephen,

I do not have any "orange" but Bert Pfeiffer is sending you a gram by air mail. I was intrigued to receive the German articles you sent. The compound 2,3,6,7-tetrachloro-dibenzodioxine had come to my attention a few weeks ago as a possible contaminant in the 2,4,5-T used by bionetics laboratories in their teratogenesis experiments. In a rather round-about and therefore not necessarily reliable way, I have heard that the bionetics material contained 20 parts of the contaminant and that Dow Chemical claims that their 2,4,5-T contains only 0.1%. I have heard that tests are underway to learn whether 2,4,5-T itself is teratogenic or whether the bionetics results were caused by the impurity. I do not know the purity of the various lots of 2,4,5-T used in Vietnam. If I learn more, I will let you know. Also, I would greatly appreciate your keeping me closely informed in this matter. I am particularly interested in connection with an assignment I have recently accepted from the AAAS to design a study of the effects of anti-plant warfare in Vietnam.

I enclose some portions of the bionetics report dealing with 2,4,5-T and also a bibliography on CS.

With best regards to you and Hillary,

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson

MM:ls
Encl:2