

Law School of Harvard University

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25 February 1970

Professor Matthew Meselson
Biological Laboratories
16 Divinity Avenue

Dear Matt,

I hope you will permit me to send you my comments on Mr. Brown's paper and that you will in turn pass on to him these general observations if you see fit to do so. My specific points are listed on the attached page.

My understanding was that these papers should present a balanced pro and con view. This paper is an anti-defoliant brief written from the perspective of someone involved in the pacification program. The military case is not forcefully put; it is merely set up to be rebutted. I found it difficult to put my finger on the hard arguments on each side of the case, perhaps because the paper kept talking about what needed further inquiry. The whole tone of the paper does not seem right to me.

I do not suggest the following as an outline, but I would be interested in hearing both sides of the case from the following perspectives:

Military

Strict sense
Pacification

Political

Diplomatic (primarily UN)
Arms Control

Economic

Ecological

Short-term
Long-term

I would then like to have some final summary with an overall balancing of advantages and disadvantages. Right now the paper is not as helpful as it might be to my thinking, which I take to be on about the same level as that of the ordinary questing layman.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

D. ch

Enclosures.

R. R. Baxter

Comments on Brown, Herbicide Warfare:

I had thought we were going to have standard terminology -- anticrop chemicals.

- p. 2 Is it correct to reach conclusions in this paper?
- p. 5 In Table I, is it clear that all figures refer to defoliation through the use of anticrop chemicals, rather than mechanical means?
- p. 8 In line 16, "significant disadvantage" to whom?
- p. 10 The military case has been criticized but never really put with full force.
- p. 11 In last line, what is "CORDS"?
- p. 13 I do not find helpful references in the second full paragraph to what sort of inquiries should be made.
- p. 15 It would have been helpful to have had more definite information on the diplomatic costs.
- p. 17 More of the "coloring" of the debate could be derived from the official records. (Incidentally, will this paper have footnotes?)

(Some changes have also been pencilled into the draft.)