

Visit of Sterling SEAGRAVE to Brighton, 15 Nov 1981

He had just arrived that morning from America to begin his tour of Europe flogging his book. I gave him lunch at Wheelers (£29) then back to the flat. He left about 6 pm.

- 1) Christmastime 1980 he had been invited to a party of the interagency working group on the CW reports, where he spoke of his palytoxin theory. Sharon Watson later told him she knew of a toxin that fitted in better with the symptoms, but would have to clear it with DA before talking with him further about it. Later he was given an appointment with her, in presence of a DA press officer. That was when he got the trichothecene notion. Nobody wanted to hear about it in State. A close friend of his on PNBR wrote about it. Mirocha was asked to look for trichoths as a way of disproving the trichoth theory. But found them. Pentagon leaked to Time. Meanwhile results had gone up to Haig, President &c: what to do: was it better for Haig to raise it privately with Gromyko at their scheduled meeting: or was it better to go public as a means for countering neutron-bomb propaganda &c? Gene Henderson of DIA argued for the latter. Pressure for that anyway now that the Time story had come out (heavily subbed, so a bit wrong) and there were so many follow-up inquiries to State from the press.
- 2) Hilts on WP had had most of his stuff from Seagrave.
- 3) Sharon Watson's thesis supervisor was at Philadelphia.
- 4) Kit Greene (of CIA) was the person who, while on liaison duty at CDE Porton, had first suggested ricin as the Markov agent.
- 5) Other countries have been active in collecting data on YR. Thailand of course is one (see below). Another is presumably France.
- 6) In Thailand, Prince Chalermsuk has, for the past two years, been running a special investigation of the CW reports (Thailand now greatly fears CW). For this he had called back Thais from their work in scientific institutions all around the world—MIT, Cambridge &c. The team had found trichothecenes in the samples before the USA did. Seagrave's source on this was Kit Greene. In places the Thai side is on higher ground than Cambodia across the border and this has given vantage points for observing CW attacks in the border area. The team has had people in full antigas protective gear watching and waiting to go in across the border into CW attack areas. This was where the twig sample came from, the team having gone in a very short while after the attack to get not only the twig but many other samples as well.
- 7) Those samples included autopsy material. The State Dept cringes at any mention of autopsy data because that would implicate the Thais and threaten them with the publicity they have so far been keen to avoid.
- 8) The Thai team have two unspent CW rockets. Plus some spent ones.
- 9) Seagrave has a high opinion of the Japanese Cabinet Information Office as an intelligence service. The Kyodo man in Peking is one of their spooks. The CIO was Seagrave's source for what he says in his book about the CW on the Ussuri.
- 10) That Edgewood report on ChE inhib following Yemen sampling (in his book): Army had told him the report was no longer retrievable. But Bob Mikulek has got a conv.

- 11) The US has samples of the black/grey powder that seems to be the mysterious incap being used in Afghanistan--'Blue-X'.
- 12) He thought that SFRC subcommittee might have had another day of executive-session hearings: none of the relevant people were in the offices in the Pentagon etc the day after the open hearing.
- 13) Meselson is being excluded from things because he went onto an NBC TV show to give his views after he had said he wouldn't go public until after a private/informal CIA briefing that had been set up for him (he had earlier been denied a formal briefing at the order of Casey et al at CIA).
- 14) Seagrave has the shakes, Refused alcohol at lunch, said he had been off it for four years. Took pills during lunch. Handwriting is shaky. Is buying a 40-ft ocean-going yacht on which he plans to live, maybe with his teenage twins, sailing the world. Has a contract with Time-Life for two books a year at \$60,000 p.a. no royalties. Evans had given him a \$20,000 advance--which he must have spent nearly three times over on the costs of the book, especially travel. His latest Time-Life book, just about to come out, is Soldiers of Fortune, a picture book about mercenaries.
- 15) A desire to counter the world's indifference to the YR reports was what made him write the book. Its popular style was to attract a big readership. Which he seems to be getting. Now in third impression--though small runs.
- 16) He gave me a bunch of stuff, and will send more when he gets back to States in ca 3 weeks. Some of it was on loan: I should copy and return it. The latter includes his annotated copy of my comments on his book. One of the things he'll send is the second US submission to the UN
- 17) Other points annotated onto my copy of my comments.
- 18) The "irreproachable European physician" re the Cuban autopsy on p 9 of his book was Kit Green.