

Evans



January 13, 1984.

Department of Sociology
La Trobe University
Bundoora Victoria
Australia 3083.
Telephone (03) 478 3122
Telegraphic address
Latrobe Melbourne

Dear Mathew,

many thanks for your hospitality while I was in Boston. Overall I think the trip went well, though I must confess that I was relieved to get to Europe.

I visited Laos on my way home to try to help set up a visit there by Jeremy Taylor of the BBC. You may be interested in a little story I picked up while I was there which bears on yellow rain. It was at a speech given by the President, Souphannouvong, of all places. A young Lao who was at the function and works for the Foreign Ministry approached me and asked if I was the author of the book on yellow rain. Naturally I said yes. He then treated me to the following story. He had returned to Laos from the Soviet Union, where he had been studying for four years (languages, politics, etc), in January last year. When he returned he heard over foreign radio all these stories about yellow rain. Well, in early March (as far as I could ascertain) he was on the outskirts of Vientiane when he suddenly found himself covered in this yellow 'dust'. He quickly brushed ^{it} off as he feared it may be the poisonous yellow rain he had heard about. He wanted to know if I thought it was. I told him not to worry as I thought it was probably bee shit. He seemed prepared to accept the word of an 'expert'. The interesting thing about the story, besides the timing, is that it was told by an educated Lao who works fairly high up in the Foreign Ministry! God knows how many stories like this are circulating on the grapevine...

Find enclosed what I found to be an extremely interesting article on the Korean Germ Warfare allegations. I'm sure you'll find it interesting as well if you haven't already seen it.

best wishes,
[Signature]