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Author

Corporate Author

Report/Article Title Correspondence Regarding Dr. Fingerhut's Soft-Tissue Sarcoma Report, April - May 1984

Journal/Book Title

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Description Notes Item consists of three letters. One from Jacque Grinberg to Alvin L. Young, 10 May 1984, and two from B. H. Manning to Jacque Grinberg, 26 April 1984 and 1 May 1984..



EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA

IN REPLY QUOTE:

10 May 1984

Dear Al,

....

Attached are two letters from Bruce Manning concerning the confidential report on soft tissue sarcoma by Dr Fingerhut. In each letter, Bruce Manning raises a number of questions about that report. We would be grateful for any information you can provide with which to answer those questions.

As discussed in our conversation last week, I am also sending to you a full set of the transcripts of the Agent Orange Royal Commission. I understand from conversations with Canberra that even though a settlement has been announced in the Agent Orange trial in New York, nonetheless, the Australian Veterans have asked that the Royal Commission continue and complete its work and that there is a real possibility of separate litigation on Agent Orange in Australia.

Perhaps when some of the dust settles on the activities in New York, we might be able to meet together and discuss where the Agent Orange issue might go from here.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Grinberg'.

(J. GRINBERG)
Second Secretary

Lt Col Alvin L. Young PhD
Senior Policy Analyst for Life
Sciences
Executive Office of the President
Office of Science and Technology
Policy (Room 5005)
New Executive Office Building
WASHINGTON D.C. 20506

*Bruce called
24 May 84
RE: Individuals that
could address
exposure with
Newton Post Manning
Fingerhut
Visit in late
June.*



Commonwealth Department of
Veterans' Affairs

Telex AA62706

CENTRAL OFFICE

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MLC Tower
Keltie Street
Woden Town Centre ACT
Postal Address:
PO Box 21, Woden ACT 2606

Telephone: (062) 89 1111

Mr J. Grinberg,
Second Secretary,
Embassy of Australia,
1606 Massachusetts Avenue,
WASHINGTON D.C. 20036

26 April, 1984

Dear Jacque,

I refer to your cable WH17837 of 21 March 1984 concerning a confidential report on soft tissue sarcoma by Dr Fingerhut.

I was hoping that a better copy of the report could be obtained for us from Dr Al Young. While Dr Young has said that the report will not be made public, I note that Dr Fingerhut says that this copy of her recent presentation is being submitted for publication and that it should be considered as confidential, presumably until formal publication. I would be grateful if you would check with the Veterans Administration and/or Dr Young whether or when we can make public use of the review and whether we can provide it to the Royal Commission, if this has not already been done. I would appreciate clarification of these points concerning Dr Fingerhut's presentation.

On another matter, Dr Young requested a full set of daily transcripts of the Vietnam Veterans' Royal Commission. Four volumes of transcripts are forwarded under separate cover, and I would be grateful if you would pass these on to Dr Young.

Yours sincerely,

(B.H. MANNING)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
(SPECIAL PROJECTS BRANCH)



Commonwealth Department of
Veterans' Affairs

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Second Secretary,
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/ May 1984

Dear Jacque,

Further to my letter of 26 April 1984, I refer to your cable WH17837 of 21 March 1984 concerning a confidential report on soft tissue sarcoma by Dr Fingerhut. Having read the report in more detail, there are two points which I should like clarified. I should be grateful if you could approach Dr Al Young to see if he would raise these points on our behalf with Dr Fingerhut.

The first point appears to be a mis-print. At the bottom of page 6 of the text it refers to case 5 having a brief assignment to a pentachlorophenol department, but from the (hardly legible) text at the top of the page it would seem that this ought to be case 7.

The second point concerns the exposure of case 6. The authors state that he had worked only 2-5 years at a 2,4,5-T plant, and that he had no record of assignment to the 2,4,5-T area. This case was brought to light by Drs Johnson, Kugler, and Brown in a letter to the Lancet, 4 July 1981, and in that letter they referred to a job prior to the work at Monsanto which involved "phenol exposure". While the reference is to phenol rather than trichlorophenol or pentachlorophenol, this may have just been the use of a generic term. Case 6's family appears to have been resident in the area for some time, and it seems likely that prior to joining Monsanto, Case 6 had worked in the same geographical area and possibly in the same sort of industry. Could Dr Young find out whether the reference to "phenol exposure" in the earlier job was followed up by the authors, and with what result?

Yours sincerely,

(B.H. MANNING)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
(SPECIAL PROJECTS)