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**Report/Article Title** Proposed Itinerary (23 February - 9 March 1984) for the Visit of Mr. John S. Coombs, QC, Senior Counsel Assisting Royal Commission, Sydney, Australia, and Dr. John Matthews, National Health and Medical Research Council, Melbourne, Australia

**Journal/Book Title**

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**Description Notes** Item also includes a letter to John Coombs presenting the itinerary and asking for input. Dated January 23, 1984.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

January 23, 1984

Dear John:

I was pleased to hear that you and Dr. John Matthews will serve as the advance party for a formal visit by the Royal Commissioner. Accordingly, I have prepared, in cooperation with Dr. Barclay Shepard, Veterans Administration, a proposed itinerary (attached).

The proposed itinerary consists of a tightly scheduled series of briefings and meetings designed to cover the spectrum of interests of those of the Royal Commission. Hence, I have scheduled meetings with scientists, key agency personnel, veteran groups and government coordinating groups. I have taken the liberty of suggesting that you and Dr. Matthews would be willing to speak to the Agent Orange Working Group and the VA Advisory Committee about the tasks of the Commission in general (you), and the research agenda (Dr. Matthews).

If this agenda is acceptable, I will formalize a time schedule. I have been in touch with Mr. Peter Shannon, First Secretary, Australian Embassy, regarding this itinerary.

I look forward to seeing you both in late February.

Sincerely,

  
Alvin L. Young  
LT COL, USAF, Ph.D.  
Senior Policy Analyst

Enclosure

Mr. John S. Coombs, Q.C.  
Senior Counsel Assisting  
Royal Commission on the Use and  
Effects of Chemical Agents on  
Australian Personnel in Vietnam  
G.P.O. Box 4842  
Sydney, N.S.W. 2001  
Australia

cc: Mr. Shannon

PROPOSED ITINERARY (23 FEBRUARY - 9 MARCH 1984)  
FOR THE VISIT OF

MR. JOHN S. COOMBS, QC  
SENIOR COUNSEL ASSISTING  
ROYAL COMMISSION  
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

and

DR. JOHN MATTHEWS  
NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL  
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

23 February

Arrive Washington, D.C.

24 February

Release of Air Force Health Study

Meeting with investigators of Air Force Health Study

25-26 February

Open

27 February

Briefings by Veterans Administration Agent Orange Projects Office  
(Drs. Barclay Shepard, Lawrence Hobson, Han Kang)

Courtesy visit to Dr. Donald Custis, Chief Medical Director,  
Department of Medicine and Surgery, VA; and  
Ms. Dorothy Starbuck, Chief Benefits Director, VA

28 February

Briefings on New York State Epidemiologic Studies  
(Dr. Peter Greenwald, National Cancer Institute,  
Bethesda, Maryland)

Briefings on Agent Orange Exposure Studies  
(Mr. Richard Christian, Army Agent Orange Task Force,  
Washington, D.C.)

29 February

Briefing by Mr. Arvin Maskin, Agent Orange Litigation,  
Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Joint meeting with Veteran Organizations

1-2 March

Visit to Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia  
Hosts: Dr. David Erickson and Dr. Vernon Houk

3-4 March

Open

5 March

Meeting with the Agent Orange Working Group, Department of  
Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C.  
(Dr. Edward N. Brandt, Jr.  
Chair Pro Tempore  
Assistant Secretary for Health)

6 March

Meeting of the VA Advisory Committee on Health Effects of  
Herbicides  
Veterans Administration Central Office  
Washington, D.C.

7-8-9 March

Visit to St. Louis, Missouri  
VA Twin Study  
Monsanto Presentation