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**Description Notes** Letter answers a question Shannon asked by telephone on December 21 regarding amounts of spray drift.

December 22, 1982

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Mr. Peter Shannon  
Australian Embassy  
1601 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Shannon:

The following information is given in reply to your telephone call on December 21.

"What evidence is available on the amount of drift that would have been generated by (a) herbicides, and (b) insecticides sprayed by U.S. fixed wing aircraft and helicopters, respectively. Over what distance would spray have been expected to drift?"

Harrison (Calibration Test of the HC-123K/A/A15V-1 Spray System. Air Force Technical Report AFIC-78-70-36, 1976, 160 p.) reported that in a test program evaluating near recovery of Herbicide Orange by ground sampling methods from six missions flown under operational parameters typically used in South Vietnam was 87%. The remaining 13% may have been undetected due to sampling technique or may have failed to impact the sampling array due to drift or volatility. The near particle size for the six missions flown was 367 micron. Harrison in the above test program with Herbicide Orange, found the following droplet size distribution in the near percent mass recovered:

Particles less than 100 micron	1.9 percent
Particles 100 to 500 micron	76.2 percent
Particles greater than 500 micron	21.9 percent

In general, test studies at Eglin AFB Florida suggest that herbicides would have minimally drifted. The best estimates under the operational conditions recommended for use in Southeast Asia would place 75% of the herbicide, including drift and volatile residues, within the spray swath and the remaining 25% within 1 km. It is also likely that 95% of the insecticide would have been deposited/intercepted within 1 km.

Sincerely,

ANNIE L. YONG, Major USAF, Ph.D.  
Specialist in Environmental Sciences  
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cc: 1057  
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