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Description Notes Letter is updating Evatt on the Agent Orange activities in the United States, including several studies. Young also expresses his opinion that the Royal Commission must continue its work seeking a thorough assessment of the scientific data so that the most accurate picture and answers can be given to the veterans of both countries.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

July 13, 1984

Dear Judge:

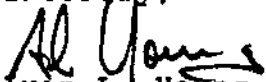
It has been a few months since our last communication. I believe it is important to bring you up-to-date on activities related to Agent Orange. Currently, efforts are underway through the auspices of the White House Agent Orange Working Group, to advance the Veterans Administrations Identical Twins Study (VETS) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) Dioxin Registry and accompanying mortality and morbidity studies. In addition in mid-August the Center For Disease Control will release its completed Birth Defects Study.

Although, much of the activity involving the Vietnam Veterans and Agent Orange appears, at least in the press, to center on the legal out-of-court settlement activities in New York, the Federal Government continues to press for scientific answers to the critical health questions posed by this issue. The dichotomy is that in the United States we may not get the opportunity to place before the public and the veteran and scientific communities a proper assessment of the scientific information.

For that reason, I believe it is imperative that the Royal Commission continues to seek a very thorough assessment of the scientific data. It is only through a process of open and complete scientific dialogue that we can hope to provide answers to the very complicated situation that surrounds the men and women who so gallantly served in Vietnam. I hope that the proposed epidemiologic study, planned during my visit to Australia, can be conducted and the results viewed by your Commission.

I feel that a trip to the United States to meet with the research and veteran communities should clearly be taken before the Commission completes its assessment. I will be pleased to assist in appropriate arrangements.

Sincerely,


Alvin L. Young, Ph.D.
Senior Policy Analyst
for Life Sciences

The Honorable Mr. Justice Phillip Evatt, D.S.C.
Royal Commissioner
Royal Commission on the Use & Effects of Chemical
Agents on Australian Personnel in Vietnam
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