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Oversite Hearings on the Effects of the Use of Agent
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the VA Advisory Committee on the Health Effects of
Herbicides

20 November 1981 DISCUSSION

PROPOSED EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDIES

Statements presented during the 18 Nov 81 Oversight Hearings on the Effects of the Use of Agent Orange, Veterans Affairs Committee, United States Senate and during the 19 Nov 81 meeting of the VA Advisory Committee on the Health Effects of Herbicides suggest:

1. The efforts by UCLA to design an epidemiological study of the possible adverse health effects of Agent Orange on U.S. Ground Troops should continue with maximum VA support. This should include necessary time extensions to complete a satisfactory protocol as well as a consideration of a contract extension for feasibility of developing and pretesting an exposure index.

2. The VA should simultaneously submit to the Agent Orange Working Group (AOWG) a proposal for the AOWG Science Panel to design an epidemiological protocol for a study of the Vietnam Experience (Health Survey of Vietnam and Vietnam-Era Veterans). The expertise within the Science Panel and/or its associated membership would permit the rapid development (a few months) of a protocol. The protocol should be reviewed by the OTA and the NAS. An oversight committee of civilian scientists (similar to the RANCH HAND Oversight Committee) could monitor the study. The Veterans Administration would have the responsibility for carrying out the study. A contract could be let for developing and pre-testing a questionnaire but the physical examinations would be conducted at Regional VA facilities.