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**Item ID Number** 00209

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**Report/Article Title** Memorandum: Reported Herbicide Damage, from  
Commanding General to First Coastal Zone Advisor,  
Naval Advisory Group, October 3, 1968

**Journal/Book Title**

**Year**

**Month/Day**

**Color** [ ]

**Number of Images** 1

**Description Notes** Refers to damage at Da Nang Air Base

30-9/226  
8 OCT 1969

From: Commanding General  
 To: First Coastal Zone Advisor, Naval Advisory Group, USMACV Naval  
 Advisory Team 143, PPO San Francisco 95602

Subj: Reported Herbicide Damage

Ref: (a) Ltr, First Coastal Zone Advisor, dtd 16 Sep 69  
 (b) MACV msg 201124Z Jul 69

Encl: (1) Hq, U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam Memo MACJ1-09  
 of 26 Sep 69

1. On 20 September 1969, the Chemical Officer of this Headquarters visited Danang Naval Base to investigate the tree and vegetation damage reported by reference (a). The exact cause of this damage could not be ascertained. However, the damage definitely did not result from aerial chemical or herbicide operations since none have been conducted in the vicinity of the Naval Base.

2. In response to a request by this headquarters a plant pathologist from MACV Chemical Operations Division visited your base on 24 September. A gasoline generator, which is filled from 55-gallon used herbicide drums, was noted. It was learned from officers at the base that the generator was installed approximately four months ago and that the reported damage began appearing about three months ago. The damage is entirely localized at the base. These factors are significant.

3. Reference (b) states that damage to foliage can be caused by improper disposal of empty herbicide drums. It is probable that the cause of damage is the volatilization of herbicide in the generator. It is recommended that all herbicide barrels be removed from the Naval Base and that precautionary measures be taken to preclude their ingress in the future.

R. L. REED  
 BY DIRECTOR

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