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Report/Article Title Letter from Alvin L. Young to Dixon Arnett, November 1, 1985

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Description Notes Young is discussing the future of the AOWG Science Panel and related issues. Also includes a memo from Young to Jay Keyworth with Subject: Agent Orange Science Panel Chair, dated 29 October 1985.
Alvin L. Young filed these documents together with others under the label, "Agent Orange Exposure Project."

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

1 November 1985

Dear Mr. Arnett:

I've enclosed the Memorandum that I sent to Dr. Keyworth in reference to the Agent Orange Working Group (AOWG). As you will note, he supported your request. Although I have no plans to leave OSTP in the foreseeable future, I can understand the hesitation of the Assistant Secretary of Health to concur with your recommendation. My concern, and that of Dr. Keyworth, is that strong leadership must be given to the AOWG Science Panel so as to enhance cooperation, promote the highest quality of science, and insure the timely reporting of the health studies.

This Office was disappointed in the recent confusion displayed before Congressional staff and the Office of Technology Assessment concerning the CDC Agent Orange Study and the proper development of an exposure index. It is apparent that the failure of the CDC Research Team to keep the AOWG fully informed of its activities and scientific problems has resulted in both House and Senate staffers contacting this Office asking questions that we were unable to answer. Accordingly, I will prepare for Dr. Keyworth a request to the Assistant Secretary of Health asking for a briefing to be given to OSTP and OMB on the status of the CDC Agent Orange Study. Certainly, we must resolve any major study issues before CDC begins the examination of veterans.

Finally, in response to your request for names of possible candidates for the AOWG Science Panel Chair, I would recommend Dr. Ronald Hart, NCTR, or Dr. Peter Greenwald, NCI. Both men have extensive backgrounds in critical science areas and are familiar with the Agent Orange/Dioxin issue.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosure

Mr. Dixon Arnett
Deputy Undersecretary for
Intergovernmental Affairs
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 606-E
Washington, D.C. 20201

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

29 October 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR JAY KEYWORTH

FROM:

Al Young
ALVIN L. YOUNG

SUBJECT: AGENT ORANGE SCIENCE PANEL CHAIR

It has been five years since the President established the Agent Orange Working Group. The twelve Agency AOWG, chaired by the Department of Health and Human Services, has been instrumental in establishing and following through on a scientific agenda that has provided many critical answers to the issues surrounding Agent Orange and our Vietnam veterans.

In late September, the Secretary of HHS submitted an accomplishment/progress report to the Domestic Policy Council. Accompanying that Report is a recommendation to restructure the Working Group. The proposal would reduce the Policy body from twelve to three members (HHS, DOD and VA) and adopt a quarterly meeting schedule rather than monthly. The Science Panel of the AOWG would continue to consist of Senior Scientists from the three principal Agencies, plus other key agency representatives (e.g., EPA, DOS, and OSTP) and observers (e.g., OTA). The chair of the Science Panel is Dr. Carl Keller from HHS while the current Chair of the AOWG is Mr. Dixon Arnett, Deputy Under Secretary of HHS. Mr. Arnett has recommended the restructuring of the AOWG including removal of HHS from the Science Panel Chairmanship. The only remaining government studies belong to HHS (CDC three-part Agent Orange Study), DOD (Air Force RANCHHAND Study) and the Veterans Administration (large mortality and soft tissue sarcoma studies). During the next two years most of these studies will be completed. If the restructuring is approved by the Domestic Policy Council, Mr. Arnett has requested that I chair the Science Panel. It is viewed that OSTP's handling of the Panel will enhance cooperation and insure a timely reporting of the health studies.

It is requested that you approve my continued participation in the Agent Orange Working Group and that I accept the chair responsibility for the Science Panel.

Approve

Good!
 Disapprove