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Description Notes Includes agendas for Subcommittee on Veterans' Education/Information and Subcommittee on Epidemiology/Biostatistics. Also includes handwritten notes by Alvin L. Young and typescripts "Brazilian Stories Alleging Human and Animal Deaths Due to Herbicide Use are Unfounded, final copy," and "Brazilian Herbicide 'Poisonings': Allegations Versus the Facts."

TENTATIVE AGENDA

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH-RELATED EFFECTS OF HERBICIDES

Veterans Administration Central Office
Room 119
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420
September 12, 1984

8:30 AM	Call to Order and Opening Remarks by the Chairman	Barclay M. Shepard, M.D.
8:35	Old Business/Recent Activities	Dr. Shepard
8:40	EPA Workshop	Dr. Shepard
8:45	Status of International Dioxin Research	Alvin L. Young, Ph.D.
9:00	Australian Royal Commission	
9:05	CDC Birth Defects Study Results	Joseph Mulinare, M.D.
9:20	Overview/Update on Activities of Agent Orange Projects Office - Research	Han K. Kang, Dr. P.H.
9:35	CDC Epidemiology Study	Michael Kafrissen, M.D., M.S.P.H.
9:45	Recess for Subcommittee Meetings	
12:45 PM	Reconvene for Reports of Subcommittees	Mr. Fredrick Mullen, Sr. Richard A. Hodder, M.D., M.P.H.
1:15	Comments and Discussion	Audience
1:45	Future Agenda Items	Committee
1:50	Adjournment	

TENTATIVE AGENDA

SUBCOMMITTEE ON VETERANS' EDUCATION/INFORMATION

Veterans Administration Central Office

Room 139

810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20420

September 12, 1984

9:50 AM	Call to Order and Opening Remarks by the Subcommittee Chairman	Mr. Fredrick Mullen, Sr.
9:55	Old Business	Mr. Mullen
10:00	Lay Language Summary of Literature Review	Barclay M. Shepard, M.D.
10:10	Progress Report on New Videotapes	Mr. Danny C. Jones
10:20	Discussion by Subcommittee Members	Subcommittee
10:50	Audience Comments/Discussion	Audience
11:20	Future Agenda Items	Subcommittee
11:25	Subcommittee Comments/Recommendations Summarized	Mr. Mullen
11:30	Adjournment	

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EPIDEMIOLOGY/BIostatISTICS

Veterans Administration Central Office

Room 119

810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20420

September 12, 1984

9:50 AM	Call to Order and Opening Remarks by the Subcommittee Chairman	Richard A. Hodder, M.D., M.P.H.
9:55	Expanded Discussion of Research Reports	
	- CDC Birth Defects Study Results	Joseph Mulinare, M.D.
	- Agent Orange Projects Office - Research	Han K. Kang, Dr. P.H.
	- CDC Epidemiology Study	Michael Kafrisen, M.D., M.S.P.H.
11:05	Lay Language Summary/Videotapes	Barclay M. Shepard, M.D.
11:20	Future Agenda Items	Subcommittee
11:25	Subcommittee Comments/Recommendations Summarized	Dr. Hodder

International Activities

- Visit of the Royal Commission
- 4th International Dioxin Symposium
- Milan Symposium - Seveso.
- Hamburg, Germany 7.
- Denmark Study International Cooperation on Exchange of personnel & information

Publications

- Mulsman
- Rockefeller
- Dioxin in the Environment II.

Final copy

Dr. A. W. Young
from Davidson

**BRAZILIAN STORIES ALLEGING HUMAN AND ANIMAL
DEATHS DUE TO HERBICIDE USE ARE UNFOUNDED**

A growing series of stories are being circulated world-wide, alleging that varying numbers of human and animal deaths have occurred in the northern region of Brazil due to the use of TORDON* herbicides. These accusations are not only unfounded, but from a toxicological standpoint, implausible. The Dow Chemical Company, however, is deeply concerned whenever any allegations are made about the safety of their products. As such, Dow Quimica S.A. (Dow Brazil) has investigated these claims and found them to be unwarranted. Dow is now encouraging other official agencies in Brazil to do the same.

To date, conclusions which have been drawn and reported in the Brazilian media have been based upon speculation, not evidence. In fact, the only substantive data which does exist has been ignored. In 1982, following the first animal death claims, four independent research institutions made investigations. Those were: The Biological Institute of the Agriculture Secretary in the State of Sao Paulo; the Agriculture and Veterinary College of the State University of Sao Paulo; the Ministry of Agriculture, Para Office; and the Veterinary Studies and Research Foundation of the State of Minas Gerais. The investigations all reached the same conclusion: TORDON poisoning was ruled out, cause of death was identified as malnutrition and anemia leading to other sub-acute and chronic cattle diseases. Shortly after the alleged cattle poisoning, the National Institute for Amazon Research also analyzed the supposedly contaminated water. No herbicide residues were detected.

TORDON 101 is a product registered in Brazil for many uses, including vegetation control on rights-of-way. It has been used safely in Brazil for 20 years and is currently approved for use in more than 40 additional countries. TORDON 155 has been registered for similar use in Brazil since 1971. There are 24 registrations of TORDON 155 or similar formulations approved for use in 13 countries. Both products have an outstanding global safety record.

These herbicides are classified as low to moderate in toxicity. For example, the acute oral toxicity of TORDON 101 is comparable to the toxicity of table salt. Put into layman's terms, a 132 pound (60 kg) person would have to drink more than four gallons (15 liters) of the actual TORDON 101 spray mixture to reach the oral acute LD₅₀ level. Exposure of this magnitude or anything even remotely close to it would be impossible to achieve in actual use.

Based on extensive scientific data, a long history of safe use and actual facts from independent studies already completed in Brazil, Dow is totally confident that the final conclusion of any non-biased, scientific investigation will show that TORDON herbicides were not the cause of animal or human deaths claimed. A finding to the contrary would be totally inconsistent with toxicology profiles of the TORDON herbicides and 20 years of use experience.

*Trademark of The Dow Chemical Company

2/14/84

T. L. Witt

BRAZILIAN HERBICIDE "POISONINGS": ALLEGATIONS VERSUS THE FACTS

I. ALLEGATION: Animal and human deaths in the Amazon region of Brazil have been linked by Brazilian officials to herbicides used to control vegetation on an 800-km electrical power line right-of-way through this region.

FACT: This is untrue. These claims have been made; however, no evidence has been presented to substantiate them. To the contrary, research concluded in 1982 that animal deaths were not TORDON herbicide-related. Area water was also tested and no herbicides were found. "Official Investigations" to date have consisted of interviews with local inhabitants of the area, which should be regarded as personal opinion, not facts, unless substantiated by evidence.

II. ALLEGATION: Accounts of the human deaths reported were characteristic of herbicide poisoning.

FACT: This is untrue. Reports of high fever, yellowing of the eyes and blood in the urine prior to death are symptomatic of dyptheria and hepatitis. Both diseases are among the leading causes of death in the Amazon region

III. ALLEGATION: Animal deaths are a "mystery."

FACT: Untrue. Four studies by Brazilian institutions of research in 1982 indepentently reached similar conclusions: The animals died from a variety of cattle maladies as a result of malnutrition, mineral deficiencies and poor animal management.

In addition to investigations conducted to determine the cause of the animal deaths, the Veterinary Medicine College of the State University of Sao Paulo also ran experimental intoxication tests with TORDON 101. The herbicide was given orally to rats, rabbits and cattle at a dose equivalent to four times that used on the right-of-way. The test animals showed no signs of intoxication and all continued to gain weight.

IV. ALLEGATION: The herbicides used were illegal.

FACT: This is untrue. TORDON 101 (now called TORDON 2,4-D 64/240 in Brazil) is currently registered in Brazil and has been since 1964. TORDON 155 (now called TORDON 2,4,5-T 120/480 in Brazil) has been registered in Brazil since 1971. Both products were and still are approved for use on rights-of-way as they were applied in Brazil.

V. ALLEGATION: TORDON 101 and TORDON 155, are "highly poisonous" and "deadly" herbicides.

FACT: Untrue. These herbicides are not classified as highly toxic to humans or animals. As a herbicide, they are designed to be active on plant species, not other living organisms.

TORDON 101 and 155 are not easily absorbed through the skin. This is the most likely route of exposure to applied herbicides. Furthermore, if ingested or absorbed into the body, they are rapidly excreted and, therefore, do not accumulate.

Accidental oral ingestion of these products even in a highly diluted form would be almost impossible due to their unpalatable taste.

VI. ALLEGATION: The material used to "defoliate" the jungle power line right-of-way in Brazil was "Agent Orange" -- or that applying TORDON 101 and 155 produces Agent Orange.

FACT: This is untrue and should be obvious that the statements are being made to add more sensationalism to media stories.

"Agent Orange" was the code name given to a military defoliant specified by the U. S. Department of Defense. It consisted of equal parts of 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D which was applied undiluted from airplanes in Vietnam for defoliation of enemy cover to prevent ambush. This operation saved the lives of many servicemen. "Agent Orange" has never been registered, or ever sold by Dow, for commercial purposes in Brazil or any country.

It should be of interest to those who are trying to advance this Agent Orange comparison, that while some veterans have alleged long-term ill health effects from exposure to Agent Orange, none are claiming it caused death due to acute poisoning.

The active ingredients in TORDON 101 are picloram and 2,4-D. TORDON 155 is picloram and 2,4,5-T. Dependent upon the type of application, they are diluted down to a 1-3% spray solution before application. In Brazil the TORDON products

were not applied aerially for defoliation purposes. Each product was applied separately using ground equipment to control resprouting of trees and brush which had been first mechanically cleared from the power line right-of-way. The 100 meter wide right-of-way has only been treated with TORDON herbicides once.

TORDON 101 and TORDON 155 are used for different types of treatment and would not physically mix together. TORDON 101 is mixed with water for vegetation control as a foliar and stem treatment. TORDON 155 is not water soluble and is mixed with oil for application to the trunk or base of woody plants. If the two treatments were to be made to the same vegetation, however, the result would not be "Agent Orange" nor would it create an unacceptable toxicological or environmental risk.

February 14, 1984
T. L. Witt

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