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# CounterPunch

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## ■ IN THIS ISSUE

### IN THE STEPS OF AGENT BLUE

- At the Institute for Genetics in Kazakhstan, former Soviet biowarriors are being financed by the US and Britain to test mycoherbicides
- *Fusarium oxysporum* strains that infect coca plants are closely related to those that attack yams, a staple in the Andean diet.

### REMEMBER CHICAGO!

- Cops Plan Their Convention Riots
- Pack the Pepper Spray; Don't Forget the Shredder

### OUR LITTLE SECRETS

- 5,000 Hear Rafeedie Trash Albright at Berkeley Graduation
- Supreme Court Scare
- When Gays Ruled the World

## New Biowar on Drugs

# McCaffery's Plagues

Along with the other enormities presently perpetrated in the name of the War on Drugs, the United States is now actively preparing to deploy biological weapons. The weapons consist of plant pathogens designed to attack coca, cannabis and opium poppy crops.

Research into the project has involved the resurrection of biological agents developed long ago at Fort Detrick, Maryland, center for the US biowar program closed down by President Nixon in 1969. Deep-frozen at the time of the program's termination, they are now being thawed out and readied for assault on producer countries in the third world. Also involved are veterans of the Soviet biological warfare effort, now being funded by the US through the connivance of an obscure UN agency, employed for this purpose in order to shield the US from well-deserved charges of violating the internationally negotiated biological weapons convention.

The work is proceeding despite well attested evidence that the weapons, if deployed, will have profound and disastrous impact on the ecologies of the countries in which they are used. Furthermore, the USDA is now researching the use of genetic modification to enhance the potency of these bio-weapons. The principal agents under development are microbial pathogens.

At the Institute for Genetics in Kazakhstan, former Soviet biowarriors are being financed by the US and Britain to test mycoherbicides—fungi, specifically *Pleospora* — to kill opium poppies and marijuana plants. In the Andes and western Amazon, the US is planning the testing and widespread application of *fusarium oxysporum*, an anti-coca fungus. The FY 2000 budget contains at least \$23 million for these programs, although further appro-

priations are almost certainly buried in covert military and intelligence budgets.

The prospect of being on the receiving end of a biological attack is not alluring to countries such as Peru, Bolivia and Colombia. The Peruvian government has already banned the testing and or deployment of the fungi. The Colombian government is similarly queasy, but has been sharply admonished by the project's supporters in the US Congress that if Colombia wants its \$1.8 billion aid package, it had better take the fungi too.

Last March, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Benjamin Gilman, R-N.Y., added an amendment to the Colombian aid bill requiring President Clinton to certify that the Colombian government "has agreed to and is implementing a strategy to eliminate Colombia's total coca and opium poppy production" using, among other means, "tested, environmentally safe mycoherbicides." The amendment is still in the bill (which is still stalled in the senate) despite a submission by Colombian scientists to the Colombian Ombudsman for the Environment that the use of mycoherbicide agents in Colombia represents "a great danger both for Colombian humans as well as for the Colombian environment and biodiversity".

It is easy to see why the Colombians are worried. The absolute requirement of this sort of weapon is that it should be "host specific", ie that it should attack only the intended victim and nothing else. According to Ed Hammond of the Sunshine Project, which has researched and publicized this enormity, tests conducted by USDA-contracted researchers in 1994 and 1995 using the favored strain of the fungus *fusarium oxysporum*—EN4—resulted (Biowar continued on page 6)

# Our Little Secrets

## IT'S ONLY JUNE....

And already Democrats are bringing up the US Supreme Court. Our old friend Jim Abourezk, a terrific US senator from South Dakota back in the 1970s, called us up to report Larry Pressler's impending effort to reenter the political arena. Pressler, you'll recall, was the imbecile Republican who succeeded Abourezk in the senate, and reposed there in a state of near total inertness for many years. Until the entire meaning of his tenure was consummated in the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996. In his capacity as chairman of the Commerce Committee, Pressler feasted richly off Telecommunication "reform", and then was driven from office by the voters of South Dakota.

Since that moment Pressler has been disconsolate. He furnished fresh evidence of his vanity and frail mental powers by briefly advertising his hopes—this is a white guy from South Dakota—of running for mayor of Washington DC. Now he has returned to his native state to reestablish residence near his hometown of Humboldt, and it's thought that he is wait-

ing for John Thune, a smart right-wing Republican who at present is the only US rep from the "sunshine state" (such was its label, dreamed up by the S. Dakota chamber of commerce, until everyone pointed out that the sun shines but rarely in S.D.) to declare either for Democrat Tim Johnson's senate seat or as a candidate for the governorship, a post now held by Bill Janklow.

When Jim Abourezk had finished imparting this news to us, we opened a conversation that went as follows.

CounterPunch: "Jim, we know you're a loyal Democrat, but how can you possibly support Al Gore? After all, you are a proud Lebanese-American, former chairman of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. There's no bigger whore for Israel in public life than Al Gore."

Abourezk: "Yes, and his main adviser is Martin Peretz, that slimeball!"

CounterPunch: "Exactly. And you're a friend of Ralph Nader. So why don't you declare for Ralph and campaign for him?"

Abourezk: "You know, there's one thing that bothers me, and that's the fact that in the term of the next US President, two maybe three US Supreme Court seats are up for grabs."

CounterPunch: "We knew you were going to say that. It's what liberal Democrats say every four years. Tell me Jim, who's the best justice on the Supreme Court?"

Abourezk: "Souter."

CounterPunch: "And who appointed him?"

Abourezk: "Bush. (Very quickly.) But Bush also appointed Clarence Thomas."

CounterPunch: "And who's the second best justice on the Court?"

Abourezk: "Stevens, I guess."

CounterPunch: "And who appointed him? We'll tell you who appointed him, Gerald Ford. Now, we would never want to compare the Pericles of the 1970s to George W. but we think the point is made."

There'll be plenty of such conversations over the months to come as Democratic loyalists try desperately to lure back the legions of people who correctly perceive that Gore is an appalling fellow who embodies in his single person everything that is repellent about the Democratic Party.

## BETWEEN LEFT AND RIGHT

As evidence of the interesting political contacts and alliances that are being made amid the Gore implosion we offer the enthusiastic support offered by Mitchell Cohen for Justin Raimondo. Cohen is a Brooklyn Green anarchist. Raimondo is a libertarian, one of the crew who run the antiwar.com website. CounterPunch attended a springtime conference put on by antiwar.com, called "Beyond Right and Left". Not so long ago Raimondo put up on the antiwar.com site an attack on Ralph Nader, for being a wuss on foreign policy. Relevant portions of Raimondo's attack went as follows.

"When Ralph Nader entered the presidential sweepstakes as the candidate of the Green Party, I thought: At last, we will hear from the American Left on the vital questions of war and intervention. A well-known and much respected public scold, Nader, I knew, would get major attention, and in spite of my own political views, which are quite conservative, I have always given him a kind of grudging respect: here is one socialist who realizes that he is living in America, for godssake, not 18th-century Russia, and looks to William Jennings Bryan instead of Vladimir Illyich Lenin as a model to be emulated.

"As the heir of the old 'progressive' movement that took root in the American West and Midwest, Nader, I thought, would represent all aspects of that tradition, which not only wanted to 'bust the trusts' but also railed against the war profiteers who dragged us into two world wars. I anticipated rhetoric in the spirit of, say, Senator George W. Norris, Republican of Nebraska, whose speech against US entry into World War I underscored the distinctly anti-oligarchical flavor of the antiwar Left in those days. The warmongers were the men of the trusts, he declared, "Concealed in their palatial offices on Wall Street, sitting behind mahogany desks, covered up with clipped coupons ... coupons stained with mothers' tears, coupons dyed in the lifeblood of their fellow men."

But then Raimondo cited a recent interview with Nader on "Alternative Radio" on February 23, with one exchange going as follows:

Q: "People will want to know your views on sanctions on Iraq, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Chechnya and Kosovo. You've got to be prepared to answer those questions."

Nader: "They'll be answered in terms

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## ***Threatened with indictment for crimes that would make a Lockheed executive blush, St. George found Christ and got himself made Archbishop of Alexandria, Egypt.***

of frameworks. Once you get into more and more detail, the focus is completely defused. The press will focus on the questions that are in the news. If Chechnya is in the news, they'll want to focus on that. We should ask ourselves, What kind of popular participation is there in foreign and military policy in this country? Very little indeed. We want to develop the frameworks. For example, do we want to pursue a vigorous policy of waging peace and put the resources into it from our national budget as we pursue the policy of building up ever-new weapons systems?"

As Raimondo sarcastically comments: "IN TERMS OF WHAT? Say what?"

Everybody knows Nader's a policy wonk, but isn't this taking it a bit too far? If US troops get into a firefight with Serbs on the Yugoslav-Kosovo border, does he really plan on answering the question of where he stands 'in terms of frameworks'? And this business of how getting into detail 'defuses' the focus is nothing but a crock — and shows a contempt for the language, as well as elementary logic, that one would expect of Bush or Gore: being in focus means getting down to the details. And what, exactly, is a mere 'detail' in Nader's considered opinion — the decimation of Yugoslavia, the murder of an entire generation of Iraqis, the prospect of a war for Caspian oil?

"These are not 'details,' but major issues that cannot be evaded by appeals to 'popular participation' and exhortations to 'wage peace. By reducing a moral question that transcends politics — what constitutes a just war? — to a question of pure process, democratic or otherwise, Nader thinks he can get away with in effect taking no position at all."

This is a well-merited attack from a conservative libertarian, and it drew an enthusiastic assent from the left-wing green anarchist Cohen, who circulated Raimondo's commentary with this preface: "Here's a very important article on Nader that many might have missed, from Justin Raimondo, the chief voice of Antiwar.com — one of the main websites to emerge during the bombing of Yugoslavia, and funded, to some degree, by the Libertarian Party. Although Raimondo to-

tally misses the vital participation of Greens in the US in the movement against the bombing of Yugoslavia and sanctions against Iraq — and the important role we played internationally on these issues — his critique of Nader is very sharp and, in my view, valid."

But here at CounterPunch we'd take Raimondo more seriously if he exhibited similar sternness about the cowardice of his isolationist hero Pat Buchanan. When protesters were busy shutting down the WTO meeting in Seattle at the end of last year, Buchanan was not far south, in Portland. Three hours' drive up Interstate 5 and he could have been linking arms with the street warriors fighting world capitalism in downtown Seattle. It would have been an interesting moment. But Buchanan shirked the invitation of history. C'mon Raimondo. A little even-handedness please.

### **COUNTERPUNCH'S HISTORY OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE (PART II)**

Following the success of the movie *Gladiator*, we can only hope that Hollywood will unleash a barrage of Roman epics, stimulating to the imagination, instructive to the unlearned. Among the many plot themes suggested by Roman imperial history, we commend the career of the Emperor Elagabalus, AD 218-222, an in-law of the emperor Septimius Severus. Elagabalus first showed up in the polls while serving as priest of the Sun at an ecclesiastical establishment near a big military base in Syria. Julia Maesa, the Arianna Huffington of her day, poured huge amounts of soft money into his campaign, resulting eventually in the murder of the incumbent emperor and the elevation of the priest to the big job.

Moving to Rome, he set out to have a good time. As Gibbon observes, "To confound the order of seasons and climates, to sport with the passion and prejudices of his subjects and to subvert every law of nature and decency, were in the nature of his most delicious amusements...The master of the Roman world affected to copy the dress and manners of the female sex, preferred the distaff to the sceptre, and

dishonoured the principal dignities of the empire by distributing them among his numerous lovers; one of whom was publicly invested with the title and authority of the emperor's or, as he more properly styled himself, of the empress' husband." Gibbon also records that a sure-fire qualification for important posts in the Elagabalus Administration concerned what he alludes to in Latin as "enormitate membrorum".

Naturally, this happy-go-lucky sort didn't last long before being displaced in favor of his tedious cousin Alexander Severus, a great favorite with contemporary pundits and opinion formers as well as with the military. Historians like to portray the military coups of those days as being promoted by licentious soldiery, irked by discipline and greedy for gold. It seems more likely however, that the real movers and shakers in military politics were the defense contractors, principally suppliers of food to the army, known as *actuarii*, "a species of men vicious, venal, cunning, factious, grasping and as if formed by nature to cheat and conceal their cheating", according to one outraged third century commentator, who also remarks on their masterful deployment of PAC money: "shrewd at bestowing gifts at the right moment on these people by whose stupidity, and at whose expense, they gathered in their wealth."

Probably the worst of the lot was George of Cappadocia, a leading light of the military industrial complex in the mid-fourth century. (He had the army bacon contract.) Gibbon, as always, sums it up neatly: "His employment was mean; he rendered it infamous." Eventually, threatened with indictment for crimes that would make a Lockheed executive blush, George found Christ and got himself made Archbishop of Alexandria, Egypt. His unquenchable greed in the job made him so unpopular that the people lynched him. However, following his ignominious and deserved death a truly masterful PR campaign by the church resulted in his sanctification as St George, together with a lot of nonsense about a dragon, and subsequent adoption as patron saint of England and the Raytheon Corporation. CP

## Fadia Rafeedie's Speech What Albright Missed

**O**ne of CounterPunch's prime regrets this year is that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was not forced to listen to the eloquent speech that follows.

It was given by Fadia Rafeedie, a young Palestinian woman who had been chosen to give the convocation address at the graduation ceremony at UC Berkeley. Originally, Rafeedie was scheduled to speak before Albright, and she had submitted her speech for prior review. The authorities approved it, but even so they reversed the order. Albright spoke first and was hustled away after she had completed her lackluster remarks. Rafeedie then put aside her prepared text and spoke extempore.

Chancellor Berdahl: Please join me in congratulating our 2000 University Medalist. Fadia Rafeedie: Thank you, that was way too generous, Chancellor Berdahl.

I was hoping to speak before Secretary Albright, but that was also a reflection of the power structure, to sort of change things around and make it difficult for people who are ready to articulate their voice in ways they don't usually get a chance to. So I'm going to improvise, and I'm going to mention some things that she didn't mention at all in her speech but which most of the protesters were actually talking about. You know, it's really easy for us to feel sorry for her, and I was looking at my grandmothers who are actually in the audience—my grandmother and her sister—who weren't really happy with all the protesters, and I think they thought that wasn't really respectful of them. A lot of you didn't, because you came to hear her speak. But what the protesters did was not embarrassing to our university. They dignified it. Secretary Albright didn't even mention Iraq, and that's what they were here to listen to. Sometimes not saying things, not mentioning things, is actually lying about them.

What I was going to remind the Secretary of State while she was sitting on the stage with me was that four years ago from this Friday, when we were freshmen, I heard her on 60 Minutes talking to a reporter who had just returned from Iraq. The reporter was describing that a million children were dying due to the sanctions that this country was imposing on the peo-

ple of Iraq. And the reporter, Lesley Stahl, told Albright, "That's more children than have died in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Do you think the price is worth it?" [Albright] looked into the camera and she said, "We think the price is worth it."

Since that time, three times that number of people have died in Iraq. I was going to tell Albright, "Do you really think the price is worth it?" There are 5000 of us here today. Next month, by the time we graduate, that's as many people who are going to die in Iraq because of the sanctions. This is what House Minority Whip David Bonior calls "infanticide masquerading as policy".

Now, I don't want to make the mood somber here because this is our commencement, but commencement means beginning, and I think it's important for us to begin where civilization itself began, and where it's now being destroyed. [applause]

Let me talk to you a little bit more about the sanctions, because it's very important. Now, I'm a Palestinian, I would

***"This woman is doing horrible things. She's allowing innocent people to suffer and to die."***

really love to talk about the struggle for the liberation of my country, and to talk about a whole bunch of other things and I see some people maybe rolling their eyes, and other people nodding. These are controversial issues, but I need to speak about Iraq because I think what's happening there is a genocide. It's another holocaust.

In Iraq, in the hospitals, they clean the floors with gasoline because detergent isn't even allowed in because of the sanctions. These are all United States policies. I have no conflict with Albright, as an individual. I don't happen to respect her, but she belongs to a larger power structure. She's a symbol. And when the protesters are protesting, it's not because they want to pick a fight with the woman who you guys all happen—well, many of you—happen to love. She was introduced as the "greatest woman of our times". Now see, to me that's an insult. [applause] This woman is doing horrible things. She's allowing in-

nocent people to suffer and to die.

Iraq used to be the country in the Arab world that had the best medical services and social services for its people, and now look at it. It's being obliterated. And a lot of times you might hear 'it's because of Saddam Hussein'. I'd like to talk a little bit about that. He's a brutal dictator—I agree with her, and I agree with many of you. But again, I'm a history major, and history means origins. It means beginnings. We need to see who's responsible for how strong Saddam Hussein has gotten.

When Saddam was gassing the Kurds, he used chemical weapons that were manufactured in Rochester, New York. When he was fighting a long and protracted war with Iran, where 1 million people died, it was the CIA that was funding him. It was US policy that built this dictator. When they didn't need him, they started imposing sanctions on his people. Sanctions—or any kind of policy—should be directed at people's governments, not at the people. The cancer rate in Iraq has risen by over 70 per cent since the Gulf War. The children who are dying from these malicious diseases, weren't born when the Gulf War happened. The reason that the cancer rate is so high is because

every other day our country is bombing Iraq still.

We don't stand alone. I'm on stage with allies, I'm looking out at allies, we need allies, my allies have been taken away [today]. But in general, I'm speaking to a crowd that gave a standing ovation to the woman who typifies everything against which I stand, and I'm still telling you this because I think it's important to understand. If I achieve nothing else, if this makes you think a little bit about Iraq, think a little bit about US foreign policy, I've succeeded.

I don't want to take too much of your time, but I want to end my speech with a slogan that hangs over my bed in Arabic, which translates into, "Fear not the path of truth for the lack of people walking on it." I think our future is going to be the future of truth, and we're going to walk on that path, and we're going to fill it with travelers. Thank you very much. CP

# Don't Wear a Veil in Philly Conventions: Cops Lay Plans

Here's a tiny legal notice in the ad section of the Philadelphia Inquirer for June 7, sent us by an alert CounterPuncher of that city, John Jonik. The box, in what looks like 6 point type, is headed City of Philadelphia and then on the next line, Public Hearing Notice. "Public Hearing on June 12, 2000, 12.00p.m., Room 400, City Hall to hear testimony on the following item: An Ordinance amending Title 10 of the Philadelphia Code entitled 'Regulation of Individual Conduct and Activity' prohibiting concealed identities in certain instances. Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the Committee on Public Safety, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed item."

What we have here is preliminary clearing of the decks for the demonstrations expected to take place during the Republican convention in Philadelphia in July. Constitutional protections for free speech and assembly will be swept aside, with police permitted to arrest anyone wearing ski masks, hooded sweatshirts, scarves acting in a suspicious manner and so forth. As Jonik wryly asks, "Some women's hats include net veils. Illegal in a demo? Are real beards legal and fake ones not? What about wigs and/or hair coloring, fake scars, tattoos and piercings? Big sunglasses?" And what about those wearable puppet outfits which featured big in the anti-WTO demonstrations in Seattle and Washington?

In Los Angeles, scheduled to host the Democratic convention in August, the cops are also preparing. California State senator Tom Hayden, sitting on a budget subcommittee, recently noticed a request by the California Highway Patrol for \$1 million for "security equipment" for the Los Angeles Police Department. Hayden got hold of the detailed list of what the LAPD feels it needs: \$125,000 worth of pepper spray, tear gas and gas guns, 40 semiautomatic launchers to fire 20,000 pepper balls, twenty 40mm gas guns, plus \$60,000 worth of surveillance cameras, \$19,000 worth of bolt cutters, \$263,000 in bomb detection and demolition services,

plus mountain climbing gear and a \$2,400 paper shredder.

It turned out that the LAPD was embarrassed to go to the LA City Council with this sort of request, not least for the paper shredder required by a police force that's been in trouble for framing people. So it routed its budget request via the CHP, which was finally shamed by Hayden's probe into cutting back the request to \$340,000. Add this amount to a security bill for the convention that, on a calculation by the Los Angeles Times, presently tots up to about \$25 million, put up by the feds, state and city for police costs and overtime for a 4-day convention.

**The only "good protesters" are those waving a couple of placards in a cop-designated parking lot four miles from downtown Philadelphia.**

The demonstrations in Seattle and Washington, particularly the former, have provoked complete hysteria in authorities in cities anticipating protests of this kind. Windsor, Ontario, right across the river from Detroit, recently hosted what turned out to be a demure meeting of 34 foreign ministers of the Organization of American States. All 2000 cops in Windsor were issued with gas masks. A brick road was tarmaced to prevent the bricks being used as missiles. The venue of the scheduled talks was surrounded with a high fence. The other side of the river, 4,000 US police officers were on full alert.

Naomi Klein, a very smart writer who recently published the first-class No Logo: Taking Aim At The Brand Bullies, about corporations like Nike, wrote an acrid column about the Windsor event for the Toronto Globe and Mail, pointing out that we are being firmly guided towards the view that public protest is somehow per se illegal, and properly dealt with by savage police violence.

Klein reports a graphic designer in Windsor getting pre-emptively hassled by cops in Windsor, just for making signs. She described meeting young demonstrators in

Washington wearing goggles and bandanas soaked in vinegar, "not that they were planning to attack a Starbucks, just that they thought that getting gassed is what happens when you express your political views." Civil disobedience such as sit-ins, Klein correctly points out, is now automatically equated by the cops, prosecutors and judges as "violence".

The message of the state is clear enough. The only "good protesters" are those waving a couple of placards in a cop-designated parking lot four miles from downtown. All others are "bad demonstrators", targets for pepper spray, police bludgeons, wire taps, pre-emptive hassles and a very hard time in court if they have the audacity to contest whatever charges the local prosecutors lay on them. We haven't moved far from that infamous '68 police riot in Chicago against antiwar protesters at the Democratic convention. The

only difference is that there's no public outcry at these militarized assaults on the rights of free speech and assembly. CP

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**(Biowar continued from page 1)**  
in two non-coca species becoming infected.

Furthermore, fusarium oxysporum strains that infect coca plants are closely related to those that attack yams, a staple in the Andean diet. This is hardly surprising, Hammond points out, in view of the fact that EN4 is designed to attack different strains of coca and therefore cannot be entirely host specific. Thus the rare and beautiful Agrias butterfly may soon fall as one more casualty of the War on Drugs, since its larvae feed and mature on wild relatives of the coca plant. One of the few remaining areas where Agrias can be found is the upper Putamayo river region, a center both of guerrilla activity and coca cultivation in Colombia and therefore a prime target for the US fungus spraying campaign.

Meanwhile, back at the lab, USDA researchers have been working to create genetically modified strains of the fungi, including the cloning of fusarium strains that attack potatoes, in order to produce something still more vicious.

However, in their search for instruments of what is officially known as "bio-control", the government's researchers have also, it seems, reached back into the past. Sometime before 1969, according to documents supplied to Hammond under the FOIA, a team from APHIS, the USDA's plant and animal inspection service, found a virus on a Datura tree imported from Cauca, Colombia. Someone, it is not clear who, determined that the virus could be useful as an anti-opium poppy agent, and it was dispatched to the US biological warfare center at Fort Detrick, Maryland

under the label D-437.

Following Nixon's order to close the place down, D-437 was not destroyed but put in deep frozen storage, forgotten by all but the researchers who had worked so happily at Detrick. On April 12 this year, Hammond caught a brief mention of D-437 on a US Army website, along with the fact that it was being studied by a Dr Vernon Damsteegt, himself a Detrick veteran. Following enquiries by Hammond, all mention of the virus and its custodian was hurriedly removed from the site, which now carried a fraudulent notification that it

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***Hammond caught a brief mention of D-437 on a US Army website, along with the fact that it was being studied by a Dr Vernon Damsteegt, himself a Detrick veteran.***

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had last been updated on April 6.

1969 was the year Richard Nixon launched his war on drugs, using it to set up what was intended to be his very own secret police force — the Drug Enforcement Agency, a story chronicled in Edward J. Epstein's great book *Agency of Fear*.

Biological warfare was integral to the US war against Vietnam. CounterPunchers will recall Agent Orange, the hellish brew deployed to defoliate the jungle. Agent Blue, targeted on rice production, is less

well known. The aim was to wipe out the NLF's food supply. Rice plantations deemed to be servicing the enemy were duly sprayed and obliterated. Professor Matthew Meselsen recalls how, early in 1970, he was taken by a US Army Chemical Corps colonel to survey a valley in an upland area that had been sprayed with Agent Blue some weeks before. As they flew over the devastated valley, the colonel proudly explained to Meselsen that this had obviously been an NLF food supply area since there were no houses to be seen.

Later, they landed at a nearby village that turned out to be thronged with refugees from the valley. The refugees explained that they had fled because the Americans had just destroyed their rice crop. Scrutinizing photographs he had taken from the air, Meselsen later detected numerous houses that had been invisible while flying overhead at speed. A simple calculation revealed that the amount of rice under cultivation in the valley had been just sufficient to feed the locals, with none left over to feed hungry Vietnamese guerrillas. Meselsen wrote a report that prompted some political qualms in the US command in Vietnam, which recommended to Washington that Agent Blue be terminated. The recommendation was leaked to the Washington Post, whereupon Nixon cancelled the program forthwith.

It is a measure of the obtuse barbarity of our present generation of drug warriors that they make Richard Nixon look sane. Despite abundant evidence of the dangers of deploying bioweapons such as the fungi in the wild, the US appears determined to press ahead. CP

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***Secrets of US Biowar on Colombia***