

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 22, 2000

Dear Josh:

Thank you for your letter on the proposal to test the safety and efficacy of mycoherbicides against the coca crop in Colombia. You raise a number of important questions about the scientific and national security impact of both the proposed tests and any subsequent use of mycoherbicides in Colombia.

The United States will not support the use of mycoherbicides against the Colombian coca crop unless three conditions are met: first, a rigorous, carefully supervised research and test program in Colombia determines that mycoherbicides are safe, effective, and superior to existing chemical eradication methods; second, a broader national security assessment, including consideration of the potential impact on biological weapons proliferation and terrorism, provides a solid foundation for concluding that the use of this particular drug control tool is in our national interest; and, third, the Colombian government agrees with proceeding with the mycoherbicide program.

Due to the magnitude of the cocaine problem confronting Colombia and the United States, I believe we have a responsibility to explore every reasonable tool against the Colombian coca crop. Our decision to provide funds to the United Nations Drug Control Program and the Colombian Government to test the safety and efficacy of mycoherbicides is but one part of a larger program aimed at supporting Colombian anti-drug efforts.

Thank you again for your views on such an important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
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