

MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

850-5-X751

TO File
À

FROM M 14
DE

SUBJECT
OBJET

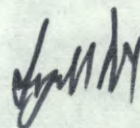
Iowa University Study
in Yellowknife

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE (M 14)
YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE
DATE March 20, 1975

Dr. Hicks advised me on March 19 that Mr. Peter Ferrant of his staff had been contacted by Mr. Wayne Cheveldayoff of the Glove and Mail on the evening of March 18 re the above study. He apparently obtained Mr. Ferrant's name from Dr. Covill in Edmonton. Questions and answers in the discussion were as follows:

1. Were the methods used to estimate mercury by the Iowa University team satisfactory? Answer: They were, yes.
2. What action has Medical Services taken as a result of this study and why the delay? Answer: Medical Services has collected a large number of hair samples in a recent survey and these samples are now in Ottawa and mercury levels will be estimated in a proportion of them.
3. Why are Medical Services not using the atomic absorption test for mercury? Answer: The equipment is very expensive and there are delays in obtaining it and the methods used by Medical Services are satisfactory.
4. Where is Medical Services having these tests done while they are awaiting for their own lab to be set up? Answer: Refused.

Mr. Ferrant then advised the reporter that he should contact the office of the Assistant Deputy Minister or the undersigned for further information. It should be noted that the above questions and answers are not verbatim but are as recounted in discussion with Dr. Hicks.



L.M. Black

J. P. Farant.

MEMO FOR FILE

ACTION		PA date	BF date
M	677	24/3/75	
INFORMATION			
M		M	I
M		M	I
M		M	M

March 19, 1975.

Report of conversation between
Mr. Wayne Chevredayoff, Globe
and Mail reporter, and J. P. Farant
re Yellowknife Report by Iowa University,
1700 hrs., March 18, 1975

- Dr. F. Covill, N.W.T. Region, referred him to me re analytical methods used to analyze hair samples.
- Told him that we are using standard colorimetric method for analysis of arsenic in hair samples and A.A. for mercury.
- Asked me why we did not use neutron activation method used by Iowa University.
- Answered that analyses are more expensive, few labs available to make analyses (e.g., Chalk River reactor), and our method comparable as to accuracy, precision and detectability.
- Queried me re report results.
- Answered that we would prefer to wait for our own results before making any comment.
- Asked for name of private firm making analyses.
- Refused to give name without company's consent.

M73/691

J. P. Farant.

c.c.: Dr. Hicks ✓

Dr. Hicks advised by phone March 19
by Dr. Patterson.

0 4 7 9 2 3

pl dr. Patterson
dr. Hicke advised pl Brown March 18

C.C.: dr. Hicke
MAD/ROT
MEDICAL SERVICES
HEADQUARTERS
Mar 20 9 19 AM '75
J. B. Evans

QUARTIERS GENERAL
SERVICES MEDICAUX

- referred to file name microfilm collection, consent.
- asked for name of private firm making analysis.
making any comment.
- answered that we would prefer to wait for our own results before
- ordered we to report results.
- backup as to accuracy, direction and responsibility.
make analysis (C.C. staff direct request) and our method com-
- answered that analysis was more extensive, few tape samples to
some inadequately.
- asked we why we did not use neutron activation method used by
analysis of elements in pet. samples and V.V. for mercury.
- told him that we are using standard colorimetric method for
methods used to analyze pet. samples.
- dr. J. COLLIER, M.M.D. Region, referred him to the analysis

1100 hrs. March 18, 1975
re following: report pl some inadequately
and that reported, and J. B. Evans
dr. Wayne Cheltenham, store
report of completion between

MEMO FOR FILE

J. B. Evans

March 18, 1975

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INFORMATION		
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ACTION	BY	DATE



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

850-5-8
850-5-X751

TO
À M14

FROM
DE M20

SUBJECT
OBJET Mercury in the Environment, Yellowknife.

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE (M20)
YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE
DATE 19 March, 1975

After consulting with Mr. Fry and Dr. Morrison, I have told Wayne Chevaltayoff of the Globe and Mail that we have received the papers sent us from NWT Region, and that enquiries reveal Mr. Munro's office referred the Iowa Study to the Environmental Health Directorate of Health Protection in 1972, where studies were done by them. I referred him to Alex Morrison for more details.

I am returning the Report to you for further review and action by M67. We should get a report on mercury along with the results of the arsenic tests on hair samples in due course.

D.B. Dewar.