

ACTION		PA AC	DATE	SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
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INFORMATION				OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE
(FC)				151-1-5-N (N1)
				OUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE
				DATE
				January 18 1977

TO  
A Dr. L. M. Black  
Director General  
Program Management  
Medical Services Branch

FROM  
DE Regional Director  
Northwest Territories Region

SUBJECT  
OBJET

RELATIONS WITH MEDIA

Further to the instructions contained in your letter of April 2, 1976 I have to report that John Ferie of the Edmonton Journal in Yellowknife phoned me on January 16th to ask for comment on a news conference which had been held in Yellowknife that day by the Indian Brotherhood and the United Steelworkers concerning a study purported to be carried out by the aforementioned organizations on environmental arsenic. I explained that I had not seen the study and could not make any comment.

On January 17th Brian Tucker of the Edmonton Journal, Edmonton, telephoned me to invite comment on the same subject. I explained that I could not comment on that report which I had not seen. He asked specific questions concerning the Health and Welfare report of 1975 and I pointed out that no excess malignancy was reported, that arsenic levels in hair must be very carefully interpreted and that the water supply of Yellowknife is drawn from the bed of the Yellowknife River and has been monitored continuously.

Peter Redhouse, a free lance reporter of Yellowknife, telephoned me on January 17th on the same subject. He sought information on such reports on arsenic that had previously been made. I drew his attention to De Villier's report of 1972, the Health and Welfare report of 1975. He asked about the Yellowknife air environmental study and I advised him that this was the property of the Government of the Northwest Territories. He asked whether monitoring of mine workers had been carried out and I advised him that it had been carried out continuously since 1975.

Mr. Baxter of CBC Yellowknife telephoned me on January 17th to ask for comment on the report prepared by the Indian Brotherhood and the United Steel Workers of America. I advised him that I had not seen the report and could not make any comment at present.

Cindy Clegg of the CBC Yellowknife, telephoned me on the 17th January to ask for comment on the report by the National Indian Brotherhood and the United Steel Workers of America and I advised her that I was unable to make any comment.

Mr. Sommerville, Medical Reporter of the Toronto Sun, telephoned me to ask for information concerning the report of the National Indian Brotherhood and the United Steel Workers of America and I advised him that our Minister has said that he will examine the information.

F. J. Covill, M.B., B.S., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.