

MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

850-5-12

TO: Dr. M.B. Wheatley,
Acting Coordinator,
Environmental Contaminant Program.

FROM: Dr. R.D.P. Eaton,
Consultant in Parasitology,
Northern Medical Research Unit.

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| SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ |
| OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE |
| YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE |
| DATE January 24, 1977 |

SUBJECT: Further comments on the I.A.B. - U.S.W.A. "study".
OBJET:

Though the precise breakdown of study population and study results has still not been made available, the following points emerge from the material we have been given.

- (1) The population chosen is mixed, consisting of 46 native children and 20 Mine and Smelter workers. To combine these two groups in one makes for statistical nonsense, and was probably only done to boost the statistics for the native group. From the N.H.&W. survey published results these are the levels we would expect on such a mixed sample.
- (2) To do hair analyses on children is not an appropriate approach to a study of a known cumulative toxin. Although they are always the easiest study population, children were deliberately excluded from the N.H.&W. survey. Demonstrated hair levels in the children probably measure only surface contamination (compare males and females below 20 years in non-natives).
- (3) The choice of Whitehorse as a control group is probably inappropriate. A greenstone region without a gold or other smelter should have been selected, though in fact with the results obtained in the N.H.&W Study no such comparison is indicated as being necessary.

| ACTION | PA AC | DATE |
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| WHEATLEY B | | |
| INFORMATION | | |
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R.D.P. Eaton
R.D.P. Eaton, Ph.D., M.B., Ch.B.

RDPE/ms