

29 DEC 1975

From

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Your ref

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Date

JMW/RFB

23 Dec 75

This is just to confirm my conversation with you a few days ago regarding the possibility of starting some research work to devise a substance such as an emetic which would cause automatic rejection of any paraquat solution from the mouth.

As you know, I am not at all convinced that the development of a solid formulation of paraquat is a major step towards preventing people taking it via the mouth. This may be borne out by the fact that more "Weedol" is being used nowadays than was previously thought probable.

If we are considering the possibility of spending a few million pounds on the erection of plant for solid paraquat, it seems to me well worth while spending a few hundred thousand pounds on a project which is specifically designed to discover and synthesise new chemical compounds which may be much stronger emetics than those we know of today. I use the word emetics as a general term, but I mean any compound such as taste or a vomiting agent which would cause quick and involuntary expulsion of the liquid containing this new compound from the mouth. I feel that this is the only sure way of preventing accidents and suicides and is one in which I believe we have spent too little effort, on the assumption that the currently known products are too slow.

I would be very obliged if you could let me know whether you can initiate any effort in this direction.

undertaken to look ^{again} into the feasibility of starting such a project. I have ~~therefore~~ asked Dr. Ron to put together a small group to study this, consisting of a biochemist and pharmacologist/physiologist from CTL & I would suggest that a chemist from the paraquat team should be included. Would you please propose a name.

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