

The following letter, addressed to a leader of the Stanford Committee for Peace in Vietnam, is from an expert source. It is important to note the date of the letter, February 13, 1966. It refers to regular napalm, not napalm-B.

"As I mentioned during our recent phone conversation, I've begun putting together my own list of napalm concentrate producers. My experience with one or two of the companies listed in your 1-26-66 news release was that they would make no statement unless asked if the firm were producing a given military specification or stock number.

I now have the following information, obtained from military agencies in Washington. None of the services is now procuring napalm concentrates -- there's still some of the Korean war stockpile left. The Army is using M-1 thickener. Stock number by container size:

1365-277-3030/5 (1/4-lb.)

1365-277-3031 (1 -lb.)

1365-277-3032/15 (3/4-lb.)

The Navy is using M-2 thickener. Stock numbers:

1365-277-3033 (20-lb.)

1365-277-3034 (100-lb.)

The Air Force gets what it needs from the Army, which is the central receiving agency. When the stockpile runs low, it will begin procurement through these suppliers, which the Army lists as prime suppliers:

- 1) J.S. and W.R. Dakins Co., Brooklyn, New York
- 2) McGeon Chemical Co., Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio
- 3) W.R. Grace & Co., Matco Chemical Division, Fords, New Jersey
- 4) Martin-Marietta Corporation, Charlotte, N.C.

These firms are listed as alternate suppliers:

- 1) Witco Chemical Co., Chicago
- 2) Nopco Chemical Co., Netsap Division, Cedartown Ga.
- 3) Hayden Newport Chemical Co., Nuodex Products Div., Newark, N.J."

Following are extracts from Chemical and Engineering News, March 14 and March 21, 1966:

Napalm-B to Use Huge Amount of Polystyrene The Air Force's napalm-B program is rapidly beginning to shape up as a big outlet for polystyrene. Last week United Technology Center (Sunnyvale, Calif) was awarded an Air Force contract to supply 100 million pounds of the new napalm, which contains 50% polystyrene.

This is the Air Force's third procurement in the secrecy-shrouded program in the past 18 months, and by far its largest. Predictions of future use of polystyrene in napalm-B now are running as high as 25 million pounds a month. U.S. production of straight polystyrene hovered around 60 million pounds per month in 1965. Dow Chemical has just raised the price of the monomer one cent, to 10 cents per pound in tank cars and tank trucks.

Napalm-B, besides the 50% polystyrene, contains 25% benzene and 25% gasoline. It is replacing the soap-jelled gasoline napalm formulations of World War II and the Korean action. U.S. combat forces in Vietnam are finding that the older formulations leave much to be desired, particularly in adhesion.

The new napalm formulation was hit upon by scientists at Eglin Air Force Base, working with Dow polystyrene. The first two contracts for napalm-B were awarded to Dow at Torrance, Calif. United Technology will buy the raw materials it needs to fill its new contract. (UTC also has an Air Force contract to develop two portable mixing units for Napalm-B)

The Air Force has clamped a tight security lid on the napalm-B program, chiefly because of fear of picketing of government and contractor facilities by antiwar demonstrators. Such demonstrations already have been staged at United Technology following public disclosure of the company's contract to develop the new portable mixing units.

The Defense Department is still looking for new and better napalm formulations. Although the military apparently is satisfied for now with the new napalm-B (50% polystyrene, 25% benzene, and 25% gasoline), DOD in recent weeks has issued at least one contract to develop an optimum hydrocarbon-thickener napalm formulation. The contractor, Atlantic Research, Alexandria, Va., concedes only that it is "continuing its work on incendiaries including some work on napalm." DOD requirements for napalm-B may eat heavily into the domestic availability of polystyrene.