

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 PM-04 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02  
CG-00 DOTE-00 /050 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:DGWAGNER:ZC  
APPROVED BY ARA/PAN:EJNADEAU  
DOD:SAF/MIQ:MAJOR BULLOCK (DRAFT)  
SAF/ALG:LMUSSMAN (DRAFT)  
SAF/IA:COL. FLEMINGS (DRAFT)  
OES/ENP/EN:GKINTER (SUBS.)  
ARA/RPP:EOLSON  
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION  
DOD:SAF/MIQ:MAJOR BULLOCK  
-----111854Z 034513 /44

R 110127Z JUN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
INFO PANAMA CANAL CO WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PN, HQ, EWWT

SUBJECT:TRANSPORTATION OF HERBICIDE ORANGE THROUGH HANAMA  
CANAL

1. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE CANAL ZONE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,  
AT YOUR OPTION YOU MAY WISH TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENT OF  
PANAMA OR TO HOLD ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS THAT A SHIPLOAD OF  
HERBICIDE ORANGE IS SCHEDULED TO TRANSIT THE PANAMA CANAL  
EN ROUTE TO JOHNSTON ISLAND ON OR ABOUT JUNE 20. THE DE-  
PARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE, THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE  
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DISPOSAL OF HERBICIDE ORANGE, RECOMMENDS THAT THE INFOR-  
MATION BE HELD FOR QUERY. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FOR  
YOUR BACKGROUND AND MAY BE DRAWN UPON AS NEEDED.

2. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

JUNE 12: SHIP DEPARTS GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

JUNE 18: SHIP ARRIVES AT PANAMA CANAL

JUNE 19: SHIP IS INSPECTED IN LIMON BAY

JUNE 20: SHIP TRANSITS CANAL

SEPT. 17: AFTER FINAL BURN AT JOHNSTON ISLAND, SHIP IS CLEANED

OCT. 9: SHIP ARRIVES AT BALBOA

OCT. 10: SHIP TRANSITS CANAL

3. SHIP: M/V VULCANUS, DUTCH-OWNED, SINGAPOREAN FLAG, DOUBLE-HULLED.

4. CARGO: 4200 METRIC TONS (800,000 GALLONS) OF HERBICIDE ORANGE. COMPONENTS: NORMAL BUTYL ESTER OF 2,4-DICHLOROPHENOXYACETIC ACID (2,4-D, ABOUT 50 PERCENT BY VOLUME), NORMAL BUTYL ESTER OF 2,4,5-TRICHLOROPHENOXYACETIC ACID (2,4,5-T, ABOUT 50 PERCENT BY VOLUME), AND MINUTE QUANTITIES (ABOUT 2 PARTS PER MILLION) OF 2,3,7,8-TETRACHLORO-DIBENZO-P-DIOXIN (TCDD). THE FIRST TWO COMPOUNDS ARE COMMON COMMERCIAL HERBICIDES. DIOXIN (TCDD) IS A TOXIC CONTAMINANT. HERBICIDE ORANGE WAS USED AS A DEFOLIANT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

5. DESTRUCTION PLAN: THE VULCANUS WILL PROCEED TO JOHNSTON ISLAND TO CONDUCT A RESEARCH TEST INCINERATION AS APPROVED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY. BURNING SHOULD DESTROY AT LEAST 99.7 PERCENT OF THE DEFOLIANT.

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6. PRECAUTIONS:

A. THE TRANSIT WILL BE VERY CAREFULLY MONITORED.

B. THERE HAVE BEEN CLOSE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE USG AGENCIES INVOLVED AND THE CANAL COMPANY ON ALL FACETS OF THE TRANSIT. DETAILED SPILL PREVENTION AND CONTINGENCY CONTROL PLANS AND PERSONNEL ARE AVAILABLE IF NEEDED.

C. THE VULCANUS IS A DOUBLE-HULLED SHIP.

D. THE SHIP WILL BE HELD IN LIMON BAY FOR 24 HOURS BEFORE TRANSITING. AT THIS TIME THE BALLAST PUMPS WILL BE LOCKED AND SEALED AND REMAIN LOCKED FOR THE ENTIRE TRANSIT.

E. THE CONTENTS OF THE SHIP WILL BE MEASURED THREE TIMES: AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 24-HOUR HOLDING PERIOD, AT THE END OF THE 24-HOUR HOLDING PERIOD JUST BEFORE THE TRANSIT, AND AFTER THE TRANSIT TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO LOSS.

F. THE WATER AROUND THE SHIP WILL BE TESTED AT THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF THE 24-HOUR HOLDING PERIOD.

G. IN ORDER TO VERIFY THAT THERE ARE NO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES, WATER AND SOME SEDIMENT SAMPLES ARE BEING TAKEN ALONG THE SHIP'S ROUTE BEFOREHAND. SIMILAR SAMPLES WILL ALSO BE TAKEN DURING AND AFTER THE TRANSIT TO COMPLETE THE PICTURE.

H. THE SHIP WILL BE GIVEN CLEAR PASSAGE THROUGH THE CANAL AND BE ESCORTED BY A COMPANY TUG AT ALL TIMES.

I. THE SHIP IS OF SUCH A SIZE THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO FIT COMFORTABLY INTO THE CANAL'S LOCKS.

J. THE CANAL COMPANY WILL PRE-POSITION CLEAN-UP EQUIPMENT TO RECOVER ANY HERBICIDE QUICKLY SHOULD A SPILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OCCUR DESPITE THE PRECAUTIONS. (HERBICIDE ORANGE IS INSOLUBLE IN WATER AND SINKS TO THE BOTTOM WHERE IT CAN BE VACUUMED IN SHALLOW WATER.)

K. UNITED STATES COAST GUARD SPECIALISTS WILL BE PRESENT TO ADVISE ANY CLEAN-UP EFFORT WHICH MAY BE NECESSARY.

L. COMPANY AND COAST GUARD DIVERS WILL BE ON MOBILE DIVING BARGEES DURING THE TRANSIT.

M. THE PANAMA CANAL COMPANY HAS REVIEWED ALL TRANSIT PLANS, APPROVED THE TRANSIT, AND FORESEES NO OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** CARGO HANDLING, HERBICIDES  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TRANSPORTATION OF HERBICIDE ORANGE THROUGH HANAMA CANAL  
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**To:** PANAMA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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