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NCBC GULFPORT
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LETTER REGARDING REHOUSING AND STORAGE OF ORANGE HERBICIDE NCBC
GULFPORT MS
8/17/1972
U S NAVY

MEMO TO: DSMP-2
DSMP
DSM
DS
IN TURN

17 Aug 1972

SUBJECT: Herbicide Reworking - Gulfport, Miss

1. Resumption of rewarehousing the drums of herbicide stored at CBC was begun on 12 Aug 1972. The following workload was accomplished during the two day work period ending on 13 Aug 1972.

- a. 402 drums were rewarehoused
- b. There were no drums requiring redrumming generated

2. Problems:

a. One of the two cranes in use by the Army Reserves is still in need of repair even though it has been idle for a period of five weeks now. The mechanic responsible for maintenance of the cranes stated he would secure the part needed to repair the crane and try to have it operational before the next rewarehousing crew arrives from New Orleans on 19 Aug 1972. The remaining crane broke down at 1045 on 12 Aug 1972, however, it was repaired and ready for use again by noon on the same day. This crane remained operational during the balance of the weekend. There is some speculation as to whether the crane operation is responsible for the bottleneck created by the backlog of drums to be hoisted to the second and third levels. A new method of hoisting the drums has been discussed, however, this will involve bringing in new equipment, either a rough terrain forklift or a large wrecker. No firm decision has been reached as yet.

b. Lack of discipline among the troops is obvious. Until this is recognized and corrected, production will remain at approximately 75% of the potential. A liberal attitude between the troops and their superiors is apparent. This is accepted because of the peculiar nature of the project and the highly controversial publicity it has attracted.

c. Only 18 members of a normal 30-man crew reported for duty at 0910 on Saturday, 12 Aug 1972. Only 16 members were present on Sunday since two of the crew were excused to return home. We have been assured the crew would return to its normal size of 30 men by this next weekend.

3. No recommendations made at this time. If the problem areas as stated above can be resolved, production should increase considerably and our goal of 1,000 drums a weekend can be realized.

E. W. HUGGINS
DSMP-2

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