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Viet Defoliant Legacy

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An American biologist says liver cancer in North and South Vietnam has increased six-fold since the U.S. Air Force spread chemical defoliants over South Vietnam, according to the medical magazine *General Practitioner*.

Arthur Galston, a plant phy-

siologist at Yale University who has just made a tour of North Vietnam, said North Vietnamese scientists had not established a direct link between the defoliants dropped on the South and the rising cancer rates in the North, the magazine reported.

But the chemicals now in the soil of South Vietnam are slowly released by rain and filter into the

sea through rivers, the report said.

Most of the currents in the area run from south to north and the defoliants have been found in fish and shellfish in the North.

About 100,000 tons of defoliant chemicals were spread over South Vietnam in the course of the war in Indochina, the article said.

Reuters