



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Health Administration
Washington DC 20420

APR 07 1995

APR 06 1995

In Reply Refer To: 103A

E.R. Zumwalt, Jr.
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Chairman, Agent Orange Coordinating Council

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Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

Your letter to Secretary Brown regarding Agent Orange was recently referred to this office for response.

Thank you for bringing us up-to-date on the concerns being monitored by your Agent Orange Coordinating Council. We certainly agree with you that some questions about the possible long-term health consequences of Agent Orange exposure have not yet been satisfactorily answered. We would definitely support carefully designed scientific research that would resolve the outstanding issues. On the other hand, it is not clear to us that hearings are necessarily needed at this point. //

We very much appreciate you sharing your views with us on this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

Susan H. Mather, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Chief Medical Director for
Public Health and Environmental Hazards