



**E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.**  
ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY (RET.)

February 22, 1995

Mr. J. Brian Atwood  
Administrator  
U.S. Agency for International Development

Dear Mr. Atwood:

Many thanks for your letter of January 30, 1995.

However, I am puzzled by the statement that "the U.S. is still prohibited by law from providing assistance to Vietnam, unless a specific statutory exception applies," for two reasons:


1. The joint research would be intended for the benefit of U.S. Vietnam War veterans. Such research was requested by the National Academy of Science Institute of Medicine panel as I indicated in my letter to you of December 21.

2. The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill, 1994, excerpt of which is attached, specifically calls for the National Institute of Environmental Health Services (NIEHS) to conduct research on health and environmental aspects of Agent Orange and dioxin in Vietnam. The problem has been that the funds have been proven to be inadequate for the major study that would be required. Therefore, if AID were able to make funds available, it would be possible to carry out the statutorily expressed will of Congress.

In view of the foregoing, I'd appreciate your reconsideration.

All best wishes for continuing success.

Sincerely,

  
E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.  
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Enclosure