

ALAN BIRCHMORE  
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TEL. FAX.

25th November 1992.

Admiral Elmo Zumwalt (USN Ret),  
1500 Wilson Boulevard,  
Washington DC,  
United States of America.

Dear Bud,

You have been in my thoughts a lot lately as I'm currently reading "On Watch" and getting tremendous enjoyment from it.

My brief association with the US Defence budget system and the very heavy lobbying which takes place is an essential background, but of course, knowing you is what makes the book so particularly enjoyable.

Events were unkind in that another man's difficulties cut short our association which started as business, but became so very pleasant on the brief occasions when my wife and I met you and Mouza socially.

The sale of Bond International Gold in 1989 finally led to a total severing of my association with Alan Bond and I then did what I should have done earlier and strike out on my own.

A partner and I now have control of two publicly listed companies in Australia:

St. Barbara Mines Limited; a terrific company which recorded a A\$12.8m profit last year and has significant reserves and very prospective exploration ground promising a long future.

Whittakers Limited; an old established timber company, also in Western Australia, which as a result of recent capital improvements and corporate restructuring, is entering a new and very interesting time.

These interests keep me very busy, but the position is complicated as we still try to live in the UK, but acknowledge that Australia is where our action is.

Maybe that will be resolved one day with a move back to Australia, but Jill is not overly enthusiastic about relocating the home where she is very settled and happy.

I don't have a good excuse to visit Washington at the moment, although reasons seem to come out of thin air sometimes.

Do you ever come to London? If so, we would both be delighted to see you again.

I trust you are both in good health and hopefully finding new things to write about. You've got a terrific style which makes easy reading and your military training obviously leads to sufficient detailed recording of events to make writing about them now so very interesting.

I hope we get a chance to see you again soon.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan', with a small horizontal line underneath.

ALAN BIRCHMORE