

04/24/94

15:59

607 770 8623

Schechter SUNY

--- ZUMWALT

FAX From: Arnold Schechter, MD, MPH

SUNY Health Science Center, Clinical Campus at Binghamton

PHONE: (607)770-8521

88 Aldrich Avenue

DATE: April 24, 1994

FAX: (607)770-8623
Binghamton, NY 13903

TO: Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

Professor Le Cao Dai, Permanent Secretary of the (National) 10-80 Committee to Study the Consequences of Chemicals used during Wartime, formerly "to study the consequences of American Chemical Warfare" !! in Hanoi would be the best person to communicate with and from whom an official invitation to you and to me should come, if Agent Orange is the issue. He can arrange other matters as well, but only one government agency can be an official host, so we will do much better if they are our host. MIA-POW or other issues can be addressed with their help, as can permission for the press to accompany us, which I think is highly desirable.

Prof. Dai's fax is 011-84-4-523514. At&T seems to have the primary long distance lines, but MCI and others may also by now.

Please let me know the exact dates you will have available for Vietnam. Their custom is for visitors to come first to Hanoi, meet the key government officials, and then move to Ho Chi Minh City (greater Saigon) for areas and investigators where Agent Orange was used.

We should probably try to coordinate what press we want. I would suggest the New York Times, where I have some contacts (Phil Shenon), the Washington Post, the Boston Globe, CNN and C-Span (Brian Lamb), USA Today (Margaret Greene, probably), and one way or another, AP (In the USA and also in Bangkok and also in Hanoi-3 different reporters with different interests), Reuters and NBC, CBS, ABC (TV and radio). The TV stations have special programs, such as 20-20, 60 minutes, etc which may wish to feature this. Straight news coverage as well as features would be useful, to educate Congress and the veteran community. We might wish to put together a one or two page press announcement soon, to build interest and allow time for agencies to put together first rate coverage, before, during and after the trip.

Please let me know your route of travel, so we can coordinate. Also, I do hope you will be able to assist in raising funds for each of us for the travel. As to hotels, I would suggest the Metropole in Hanoi, the very best in Hanoi, at about \$170/night rack rate, or the Army Guest House, or the Foreign Ministry Guest House, both very nice, at about \$50/night. In Ho Chi Minh City or Saigon, I would recommend the Rex Hotel, at \$50-\$150/night, for single room to two bedroom suite, respectively. We can make reservations ourselves for the METropole and the Rex. We might also wish to meet the State Department persons in Hanoi, three nice young men and women, who I first met on my last trip there.

You will be a celebrity in Vietnam and very many people will want your time, and it takes much much longer to accomplish anything in Vietnam than it does in the USA. You and I should decide what it is we wish to do, and not do, and try to have this decided in advance as much as possible.

With best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,