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April 20, 1994

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Chairman  
Agent Orange Coordinating Council  
1500 Wilson Blvd  
Arlington, VA

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

I am writing this to summarize some of the objectives, goals, strategy and tactics we may wish to consider to move our field forward:

It is time to reactivate the interest of the US government in Agent Orange and dioxin effects as well as other health effects on veterans from service in Vietnam. The 3 million Vietnam veterans and their families should again have effective attention paid to their needs in addition to the commendable efforts of the US government to resolve the MIA-POW issue, which involves 2,200 veterans and their families.

**GOAL 1:** Have specific targeted funds in the US budget for university based Agent Orange and dioxin research outside the USA, where major incidents occurred and where we can learn, as well as inside the USA.

Vietnam and Agent Orange, Japan and Yusho, Taiwan and YuCheng, Italy and Seveso, Russia and industrial contamination would all be and unique ideal sites for Agent Orange and dioxin health research. This should be done with the same specificity as the \$209,000,000 now in this year's budget exclusively for breast cancer health work.

**GOAL 2:** Request \$50,000,000 per year for this purpose. Realize that \$10,000,000 should be a minimum yearly figure. This should be for grants, contracts, etc, including some sole source as well as mostly competitive arrangements.

**GOAL 3:** Have one to three university based coordinating centers for Agent Orange-dioxin health research in the USA with 5 year funding, for continuity and effectiveness. Set up at least one American sponsored center in Vietnam, preferably in coordination with the US university centers.

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GOAL 4: Have university or "center" based organizations funded for yearly or alternate yearly Agent Orange conferences and proceedings publications to summarize and update current knowledge, to be used for policy purposes to help veterans and others exposed to phenoxherbicides and dioxins. The current International Dioxin Symposia are chemically oriented, not health oriented, and have a somewhat overheavy industry input and point of view. Witness the published statements from a previous conference of Dr. Hobson, then a major VA Agent Orange researcher that fear of dioxin health effects was akin to "witchcraft", or words to that effect.

GOAL 5: Have a national (A) Scientific Tsar and maybe also (B) a Policy Tsar for Agent Orange health work. This could be modeled after the present AIDS Scientific Tsar at NIH who has \$10 million extra for his research priorities, in addition to other NIH funding for AIDS and the Policy Tsar for AIDS, operating as part of the White House, if I understand the situation. If NIH is to be involved, I would suggest involvement of Dr. George Lucier at the National Institute of Environmental Sciences (NIEHS) in Research Triangle Park, NC.

There should be a scientific and also a policy advisory committee to oversee and advise each of the above. Veteran representation should be on both committees.

#### STRATEGY:

1. Coordinate through the Agent Orange Coordinating Council and veterans groups a major education or lobbying of elected officials by member of all veterans groups, especially larger groups like the American Legion. Thousands of letters from veterans to elected officials would be essential. Begin this year in a major way.
2. Elicit interest by a veterans' delegation to Vietnam to learn about possibility of health effects research as it would help US veterans. This should be lead by Admiral Zumwalt. I could serve as scientific director of the trip and trip coordinator. Other veterans groups might elect to go. Maximum publicity should be a goal. The purpose of the trip would be to educate veterans groups members, Congress and the President. Timeframe: before Dec. 31, 1994.

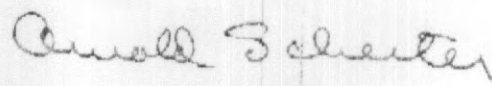
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3. Offer to serve as coordinator of Congressional and Presidential fact finding trips to Vietnam to consider Agent Orange health research projects; I would be happy to help with up to 6 each year. Reinforce the Institute of Medicine recommendation for considering Vietnam as a site for Agent Orange research to help American veterans. Begin trips 1994, continue in 1995 and 1996.

I would hope to play a major role in helping to implement the above. Without some minimal extra secretarial, phone and travel budget, my activities will of necessity be somewhat less than I would like them to be. Our school is under very tight budget restrictions, causing me some difficulty, and Agent Orange and veterans' health is not a primary interest, I am sorry to say, of my school. Especially as it remains a mostly unfunded interest. Nevertheless, I feel now is the time to move forward in a vigorous and effective manner.

I look forward to attending the Coordinating Council meeting tomorrow in Washington.

Sincerely yours,



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