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DATE:

TO: May 10, 1994
Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Jr.

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

Thank you for your letter which lists the (surprisingly large number of) people who may be coming with you to Vietnam.

If there are any business related matters where I can be of help to you I would be pleased to help. I welcome projects which would help you, be of help to the Vietnamese people, or help me to raise funds to help with my research. If I cannot be of assistance to you in these matters, I will confine my attention to Agent Orange and health.

Have you given thought to where you wish to stay in Hanoi and in Ho Chi Minh City? Decent hotels or guest houses are very limited, especially in Hanoi. Prices for the excellent but expensive Metropole in Hanoi, where reservations must be made long in advance, perhaps even this month, are about \$160 for single room plus tax per night. Next would be the Foreign Ministry Guest House and then the Army or Military Guest House (\$45-\$65/night), for quality and location. With the large size of the group, you may wish a van to be rented. Dr. Dai's organization has one in Hanoi. If you wish to do some sight seeing in the north or south with your wife, you may wish to have that planned long in advance also. In Ho Chi Minh City, I recommend especially the Rex Hotel. You and your wife should enjoy the suites, if available. Reservations can be made now. The not so good hotels are characterized by rats in the rooms and restaurants, loss of electricity, third rate bathrooms, no bathtubs, and lack of hot water.

The people you will find essential for Agent Orange work in Hanoi are Professors Hoang Dinh Cau, Chairman, and Le Cao Dai, Permanent Secretary, of the 10-80 Committee. Their office, now moved from the Ministry of Health to the Hanoi Univ. Medical School, but funded to a large extent at the highest levels of the Vietnamese government, is the nerve center for all Agent Orange research in Vietnam. Some of their work is conducted at various hospitals or health stations. In Hanoi, these include the Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospitals, the military hospitals in Hanoi, and several other hospitals. Most people in Hanoi have very low dioxin levels, but some soldiers who served in the south have slight elevation of TCDD, possibly from Agent Orange, but they are still quite low in dioxin levels. Dr. Dai coordinates the Agent Orange work in the south also, and should be useful to us in the south also.

fax'd to Selma McClas 5/12/94

In Ho Chi Minh City and the south, the most important dioxin researcher is Dr. Nguyen Phuong, Director, Tu Du (too zuu) OB-GYN hospital, then Dr. Phiet at Cho Ray, a major tertiary care hospital, then Dr. Kim Chi at Song Be Province Health Center and Hospital, an obstetrician with experience in Agent Orange research. You may wish to see the 10-80 Committee office in Ho Chi Minh City. It is presently very modest. The cancer or Oncology Hospital in HCMC is also useful for dioxin research. The children's hospitals may be useful also for research, but I have not used them very much so far.

I would very much like to coordinate press coverage with you. I feel we are at a critical time for government funding. Press coverage of a major sort, TV and major wires and papers, would be very helpful. You and I have independently worked with the press on a number of matters. I would like to coordinate efforts in this matter with you, if you are willing. There are a number of persons in the press who have a very strong interest in Vietnam, Agent Orange and dioxin, and veterans. The earlier they are notified, the better. Also, upon return to Bangkok, if that is your exit route, a luncheon at the Foreign Correspondents Club usually gets wonderful press coverage. In the US, major network TV interviews would make the point, upon return, as would congressional hearings. The point of the visit will be to follow up the IOM and Coordinating Council's interest in Vietnam based, US research into Agent Orange and health. Our conclusion, after the trip, from your perspective, and from my different perspective, probably will be that Vietnam now offers unique opportunity for US government sponsored research into health effects from Agent Orange on Vietnamese and this applies directly to US Vietnam veterans. The \$50 million per year could be introduced here. The morning news shows, Larry King, C-Span, and the nighttime news and talk shows would also communicate to millions of listeners.

I believe you and I offer different types of credibility for the point we are going to make. Each of us may appeal to a different audience in addition to the overlap in the veteran community and general public. I believe a team PR approach will be far more effective than an individual effort.

One last bit of commentary. In Vietnam today, everything takes very much longer than expected or hoped for and things go wrong with very great frequency. It might be prudent to budget extra time to take this into account. The CNN team, which did a good job, I thought with "The Last Battle of Vietnam", was frustrated daily, and it took us 11 days of working together almost all day every day, to produce that 28 minute segment (15 minutes for Vietnam), which was a compromise in their view.

If you have an exact date for entry and exit for Vietnam, it would be helpful to me to begin my planning. Also, if you may be able to find funds to help pay my part of the trip expenses, usually less than \$3,500, that would be very much appreciated.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain

Sincerely yours,

