



State University of New York  
Health Science Center  
Syracuse

Clinical Campus

P.O. Box 1000  
Binghamton, NY 13902

March 10, 1994

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.  
1500 Wilson Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

Thank you for your letter of Feb. 10. I think we have NIEHS on board and as eager to begin Vietnam based dioxin research as we are. Dr. Phuong and I met with Dr. George Lucier of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) in Research Triangle Park, NC. He is enthusiastic about using some of the money where congress specifically asked for Vietnam Agent Orange health research in the NIEHS budget for that purpose, which is also his research interest. He is a first rate basic scientist and human being. We need to keep the money coming into his budget each year, and also add some to the EPA budget, where Dr. William Farland in Washington and Dr. Linda Birnbaum in Research Triangle Park are interested in special dioxin exposed populations, and are willing to fund such research if they have extramural research funding for that purpose. We are planning for a visiting group of scientists to Vietnam for a fact finding mission soon, to be followed by requests for proposals this fiscal year.

We need to keep up our education-lobbying efforts, especially with the American Legion and other larger veteran organization, but with all interested organizations having input. We should try to have some economic parity with the MIA-POW and the far more veterans potentially involved with Agent Orange. It seems to me 10 million dollars per year for extramural or university funded Agent Orange research should be a minimum amount the organized veteran should try to achieve. Perhaps we should request 25 million dollars yearly in order to obtain \$10 million. That amount seems to me a reasonable minimum amount to do first rate research which should answer some of the key questions relating to exposure, then cancer, reproductive problems, immune deficiency, endocrine disorders and nervous system pathology. There are other questions which may not be quite as pressing which could be started later.

With warmest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Committed to Excellence in Professional Education, Patient Care and Research.