

# NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS COALITION

NOV 15 1994

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November 14, 1994

Adm. E. R. Zumwalt

Re: Agent Orange

Dear Adm. Zumwalt:

Thank you very much for your speech at our Breakfast. It was unfortunate you had to leave so early: you missed a rave review by former Congressman Bill Hendon, who had something of an epiphany after hearing your speech.

I also enclose three documents. The first is the letter Mike Van Atta promised to you. The second is a document I discovered in the newly declassified POW-MIA records, which demonstrates that spraying did not cease in the field when the order was given.

Finally, I have obtained an industry consultant's client memo. I thought you would like to read about yourself. In order to be allowed to send it forward, I was required to redact the author's identity.

Sincerely,



William T. Bennett  
General Secretary

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Dr. Ng Niem Quack  
National Institute of Agricultural Science  
Biochemistry Department  
D7 Phung Mai Doncha  
Hanoi, Vietnam People's Republic

Dear Dr. Quack:

I am writing to you in a humanitarian effort to seek a direct benefit for both your people and ours. This letter is made possible because of recent changes in the politics of our respective countries that include Americans providing information of Vietnamese remains, an improved trading status between the two governments and better political recognition of each others needs. This includes the recognition that toxic substances were deposited in the soils and waters of your country. This problem needs to be medically and scientifically remedied.

If approved by each others government, our humanitarian group, of which I am a representative, would like to provide you with possible medical treatments for cassava intoxication and dioxin intoxication. A possible treatment kit could be sodium thiosulfate and sodium nitrite as a treatment or a pretreatment such as PAPP/ newer sulfur donor. A possible dioxin antidote may be an antibody to the Ah receptor. We in turn believe that there are Americans alive in Southeast Asia whose release may be promulgated by the influence of Vietnam People's Republic officials. We would like you to exercise your considerable influence to obtain the release of these unfortunate victims.

I would like to send appropriate scientific personal to help you with the situation. It is anticipated that this two way street action will provide improved health and environmental aid to the people of your country as well as provide mental peace to some of the people in ours.

We hope to hear from you soon. Please respond by December 1 so we can help each other.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Van Atta, Director  
The POW Educational Fund  
P.O. Box 735  
Stewartstown Station PA 17363 USA  
Tel:

CC: Doctors for Peace



THE JOINT STAFF

REPRODUCED AT

AL ARCHIVES

Select Senate Committee on  
PW-MIA  
Documents received  
after Feb 1, 1953

IN CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301  
POLICY DIRECTORATE (J-5)

Box 17

22 December 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

Subject: Meeting of the NSC Ad Hoc Group on Vietnam  
22 December 1970

1. The following personnel attended:

Ambassador Sullivan	- State
Mr. Engle	- State
Mr. Carver	- CIA
Mr. Holdridge	- NSC
Mr. Nooter	- USAID
General Karhohs	- OSD
General Smith	- OJCS

2. POW Matters:

a. The NVN delegate to the Paris Peace Talks, Mai Van Bo, has released to representatives of Senator Kennedy and Senator Fulbright a purported list of POWs held by the NVN. The list turned over to Fulbright's man was provided to Embassy Paris today. It listed 339 prisoners held and 20 dead. It thus coincides with the number furnished through Cora Weiss; however a check of the names on the list has not been completed. Senator Kennedy is holding a press conference today at which he will announce this new communication from the NVN. He was encouraged to wait until the list could be checked to see if any new information is provided, but declined.

b. The NVN delegate in Paris has notified the Postmaster General that, after delays due to air strikes on NVN, they are willing to meet with him on 23 December on subject of mail to the POWs. The PMG is sending a representative to Paris today.

c. It is reported that the POW wives have agreed to ask that the US Government establish a definite date by which withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam will be completed as a basis upon which to gain NVN agreement

to negotiate [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]. Compliance would amount to agreement [redacted] of the demands by Xuan Thuy.

3. RVN Economic Progress: The paper on this subject prepared by Mr. Nooter, USAID, met no objection in OJCS; however, Mr. Nutter, ISA, thought that the paper did not take into account the need for larger pay raises for GVN personnel than now contemplated. He wishes to defer submission of the paper to the President until Secretary Laird returns from his trip to RVN, at which time further views of OSD will be provided.

4. Possible High-Level DRV Meeting in Hanoi: Mr. Carver noted that DRV Ambassadors to Moscow and Peking, three NLF representatives to the Scandinavian countries and certain other senior DRV diplomats in Europe are converging on Hanoi in the next few days. Increased intelligence watches for possible results of such a meeting are being instituted. No output is expected before the first of the year.

5. Congressional Actions: In response to [redacted] questions, Mr. Holdridge indicated some optimism that the authorization of the \$1 billion for the Asian Development Bank Loan, rejected yesterday by the Congress, will probably go through early in the next Congress, after Senator Gore leaves the scene.

6. Herbicides: Reading of the latest traffic from MACV and Embassy Saigon has left the State Department in doubt as to field interpretation of national policy on the use of herbicides in RVN. Ambassador Sullivan has requested a careful review of traffic to assess what activities on herbicides will be carried out in the field. He hoped this could be done without further messages to Saigon and MACV. The OJCS is undertaking to sort this out.

7. Release of NVN Prisoners Held in RVN: Ambassador Sullivan expressed concern over the detailed plans for the possible release over the holidays by MACV/GVN of NVN prisoners. His concern and that of the NSC staff surrounds the point of how our side would be assured, as required by the Geneva Convention, that the DRV is willing to accept the repatriation. It was pointed out in review that the good offices of the ICC have been requested for the use of their aircraft as the preferred means of repatriation, with return across the Ben Hai as an alternative plan directed by SecDef. OSD and OJCS representatives expressed the view that:

a. Possibility exists that NVN troops may fire on the returning prisoners.

b. If there is no NVN reaction against POW return to the north shore of the Ben Hai operation, relying on a legal presumption of DRV territorial control there, DRV's tacit acceptance of the returning prisoners may be properly inferred to meet the requirements of the Geneva Convention.

8. It was pointed out that the ICRC is participating by checking willingness of prisoners to return north. If the Ben Hai operation goes, we would expect to have ICRC observers on hand to assess the correctness of our actions. Mr. Carver suggested that the proceedings be photographed for public TV release, thus to provide proof of our correctness as well as to dissuade NVN counter-action. The group agreed that State attorneys should examine the actions required to meet Geneva standards on the acceptability by DRV of the prisoner return.

*F. L. Smith*

F. L. SMITH  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Chief, Far East Division  
OJCS Representative to the  
NSC Ad Hoc Group on Vietnam

Distribution

Director, J-5

Deputy Director, J-5 (Regional)

# Issue Research and Analysis

## Dioxin Foes Target Agent Orange, Monsanto

August 2, 1994

Dioxin-based Agent Orange was the topic of a major session of the Second Citizen's Conference on Dioxin, held July 29-31 at St. Louis University. Retired Admiral E. R. Zumwalt and long-time anti-chlorine activist Richard Clapp spoke of the increasing evidence that Agent Orange causes cancer and criticized the federal government for not accepting the "overwhelming" scientific evidence that the defoliant was highly carcinogenic. The conference organizers also distributed a "leaked" July 20, 1994 internal EPA memorandum discussing "the failure of EPA to investigate allegations that the Monsanto Company has falsified scientific studies on the carcinogenicity of dioxin."

The EPA Memorandum to the Director of the Characterization and Assessment Division (with a copy to the EPA Inspector General) charges the Monsanto may have been involved in criminal behavior, and EPA must inspect every Monsanto dioxin study done since the Vietnam War. The memorandum was written by EPA Policy Analyst William Sanjour, who works within the Characterization and Assessment Division. Sanjour attended the conference, but spoke only briefly.

Interestingly, this EPA Policy Analyst has a long history in the environmental movement. In August 1993 he was a writer for RACHEL'S Hazardous Waste News and wrote about corrupt dealings between industry and the Environmental Crimes Section of the Justice Department. Though it is unclear whether he was employed by Peter Montague's radical, anti-corporate Environmental Research Foundation, his work for them shows that he is on the radical fringe of the environmental movement. In 1990, Sanjour was active in hazardous waste and incineration activities, and worked with Greenpeace's Charlie Cray on incineration presentations. Further, he was on a panel discussion of military incineration in October 1990 at Richmond, Kentucky, which was organized by activist Peter Hille and featured the dioxin conference's organizer, Paul Connett.

Sanjour's memorandum accuses the EPA of ignoring the allegations, made in February 1990, of EPA whistleblower Cate Jenkins that Monsanto had falsified its studies regarding the carcinogenicity of dioxin. "Though EPA began a criminal investigation..." Sanjour writes, "as soon as the criminal investigation began, a whole bunch of wet blankets were thrown

over it." In addition to EPA reluctance to look at the case, "Monsanto continued a campaign against Jenkins." After two years of investigation, in August 1992, the EPA closed the investigation, citing that even if fraud was found--which it was not--the case would be "immaterial to the regulatory process." Sanjour concludes that the investigation failed to find fraud because top EPA officials were tentative to take on "an influential giant like Monsanto."

Sanjour recommends that EPA "Convene a panel of disinterested scientists...to determine if the studies are valid, and if not then determine whether the results would have been positive if the studies were done correctly." If the panel finds intentional fraud, the Justice Department should determine what "enforcement action" to take.

Sanjour's wrote his 30 page examination of the Monsanto case on July 20, 1994, and, fortunately for the dioxin activists, was leaked to environmentalists in time for it to be copied and distributed nine days after the memo was written. Peter Montague had the thirty pages read and summarized for his RACHEL'S Hazardous Waste News by July 28. Sanjour's attendance at the conference shows that despite his appointed position within the federal government, he maintains close ties to the radical environmental community. Duplicates of his memorandum are available from Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes for five dollars, thus this internal EPA memorandum now serves as a fund raising devise for radical anti-corporate activists.

### **Admiral Zumwalt**

Zumwalt has dedicated a substantial portion of his retired life to publicly criticizing Agent Orange and gaining Vietnam veterans compensation for what he considers Agent Orange-related illnesses. His son, a Vietnam veteran, died of cancer, which Zumwalt and activists claim was caused by exposure to Agent Orange. Recently, the retired Admiral has pointed to "possible neurological problems" in his grandson. Zumwalt vilified Agent Orange at the First Citizen's Conference on Dioxin in 1991, and his remarks to the St. Louis gathering were not unexpected.

Reiterating Sanjour's claims, Zumwalt blamed the lack of action on Agent Orange on corporate "fraudulent practices which have been carried out for many years." Though the federal government now agrees that thirteen different illnesses may be caused by exposure to Agent Orange, including soft-tissue sarcoma and non-Hodgkins lymphoma, Zumwalt contends that exposure to the chemical can cause from 28 to 32 different illnesses. He also applauded the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences for its on-going study of the chemical and its effects. Further, he looks to the "Battle with Monsanto" as a test-case

for "stopping corporate control of government."

Zumwalt announced that the National Academy of Sciences will undertake a study in September 1994 to study the effects of Agent Orange in Vietnam. The researchers hope to make exposure groups out of Vietnamese citizens living near the "Ho Chi Minh Trail" and find a control group from the unexposed residents of extreme southern Vietnam. Zumwalt will accompany the scientists on their journey.

Angered that even the liberal media has ignored the Agent Orange controversy and misinformed the public about dioxin, Zumwalt hopes that his trip to Southeast Asia will gain media attention. He has invited *60 Minutes* to join the excursion, and he thinks that major media outlets will also cover some angle of the story.

Zumwalt concluded by repeating his fear that Congress and the administration can be manipulated by the monied interests of corporations. He hopes that the administration will give the National Academy of Sciences' report "rapid approval" and he hopes that administration scientists can "gain insights into a way to get rid of dioxin all together."

### **Richard Clapp and Agent Orange**

Unlike Zumwalt, Richard Clapp has been active in all anti-chlorine issues and is considered to be a leader within the movement. He is an environmental researcher with John Snow, Inc., which specializes in assisting plaintiffs in class-action law suits. At the First Citizen's Conference on Dioxin, Clapp led the discussions concerning dioxin and human health, and he could have spoken on any issue at this conference. His new dedication to Agent Orange may signify a new component in the anti-chlorine activists' strategy: the use of a high profile issue that effects one of the most sensitive elements in American society, Vietnam veterans.

Clapp provided the audience with the activist's history of the Agent Orange controversy. While the history of clinical science on Agent Orange is dominated by corruption, fraud and misrepresentation, the edipemiology has been much more dependable. He was particularly critical of a study by the Centers for Disease Control which found no statistical significance. He argued that the study, released in 1990, allowed for a dodging of the scientific issues, and concluded that the press' coverage of that study is responsible for much of the disinformation concerning dioxin.

Clapp pointed to the upcoming National Academy of Sciences study in Vietnam as the next best hope for action on Agent Orange

and dioxin. He also said that the National Academy of Sciences Agent Orange review panel will have a great deal of influence on the final EPA dioxin reassessment.

## Conclusion

A newly rediscovered concern about Agent Orange exposure brings the debate back to the issue that started the dioxin controversy almost two decades ago. In Vietnam veterans, the activists can gain the support of a new, well-respected, uncontroversial segment of the American population. That anti-chlorine leader Richard Clapp chose to speak on Agent Orange implies that the issue will be given much greater importance in the following months. Dow, Monsanto and, to a lesser extent Uniroyal, may be targets of activist pressure to "come clean" on Agent Orange science. Zumwalt's trip to Vietnam may also bring media questions to both Monsanto and Dow in particular.

Sanjour's repeated accusations that whistleblowers are persecuted at EPA means that he is unlikely to be pressured to stop assisting the anti-chlorine activists from his post within the Agency. Still, his memorandum was likely to have been written for the benefit of the Second Citizen's Conference, and he may not necessarily expect action within EPA. This is not to say that action against Monsanto is impossible, particularly given EPA's recent history.

As Agent Orange again becomes a media topic, the activists are likely to remain patient. They are likely not to press the link between Agent Orange and dioxin until the public is firmly convinced that Agent Orange is the evil they report it to be. By this time, the EPA dioxin reassessment will have been published, and the media will make the Agent Orange-dioxin connection. The dioxin connection turns Agent Orange into an additional threat to the chlorine industry, which is currently embattled on many fronts.