

Rough draft of points to include in Hanoi talk..

Introduction thanking the Conference Committee for invitation....

Why I wrote books on the war and aftermath. Personal involvement. Two visits to Vietnam when aspects of unusually high physical scars, damage to the environment and need for urgent international aid became evident.

What I now regard as chemical and biological warfare during the Viet Nam conflict by American, Australian and other Allied troops is documented in scientist Dr Jock McCulloch's book **'THE POLITICS OF AGENT ORANGE'** published in 1984 by Heinemann. I will donate my copy to the Conference.

McCulloch writes "The research done by Lugg and Holt in Vietnam lay clearly within the context of chemical warfare. Lugg's papers on his research were classified 'confidential.'" Chemistry Professor George Lugg died at the age of 51, mentally affected.

Our Federal Government has had a feasibility study into whether to have in-depth research into the health of Vietnam veterans' children and grandchildren. If Labor had been elected there was \$1 million in funding ready for urgent study on this issue, not a feasibility study. The Department of Veterans' Affairs study is of great concern as participants were not allowed to mention toxic chemicals. This is verified by two members known to me who are very angry at the vital omission.

If the Government decides to fund in-depth research, it may take up to four years and cost over \$10 million. However, funding is never a problem for Prime Minister John Howard for overseas problems. He committed \$1 billion to the Aceh tsunami fund, and a further \$64 million for Aceh Islamic schools. However, we now learn that "only \$221 million will be spent on Aceh, with the rest spread throughout Indonesia to help boost much-needed road and education support." According to the Queensland *'Courier Mail'* p29, 10 Dec 2005.

While our Prime Minister is over-generous funding overseas programs, he is extremely mean towards funding vital needs of Australian war veterans and their families.

In a "Courier Mail" article 28 November 2005, we learn that two Australian soldiers who did not serve in Vietnam have similar family health problems as those who were sprayed in your country. During service in catering corps, they were told to use DDT, Dieldrin and 2,4,5-T on rice, barley, peas, wheat, raisins, lentils and rolled oats from 1958 to 1969, for weevil and other vermin infestation. These foods were used with Australian and Vietnam. This shocking disclosure throws into serious doubt all previous morbidity studies on Australian troops and offspring, also the feasibility study recently conducted on children's health.

This aspect must not be overlooked.

It is vital to realise that our Evatt Royal Commission Report into the use of toxic chemicals used during the Vietnam war has been found to be spurious.. AGENT ORANGE NOT GUILTY was the verdict. This report has been proved to be a farrago

of lies. I pointed out to Dr Le Hong Thom at the Hanoi University's medical centre that Monsanto's lawyers had considerable input into the final report...

Although my country has many veterans and their offspring with health problems resulting from the use of toxic chemicals in South Vietnam during the conflict, they are nothing compared to the sufferings of your country. Visits to Cholon's Tu Du Hospital children's wards should be required re-education for Monsanto, Dow, Union Carbide and other toxic chemical manufacturers CEOs. I was especially moved by my visit to the young women's cancer ward – patients were mostly from the Delta where pollution in the mud continues. Such lovely sad ladies.

A major problem, to me, is the fact that media coverage is difficult, as ownership is in the hands of a few multinationals, right-wing and supportive of the chemical industry. In Australia we have some coverage from ABC radio and TV, while SBS TV is often unafraid to show controversial documentaries and interviews we need to access. SBS screened 'BATTLE'S POISONED CLOUD', while outspoken activist John Pilger's documentaries are given space.

Bio-chemist Dr John Pollak's research at the Sydney University reveals that the spraying from helicopters, in the Australian troops' areas of service, with a mixture of Agent Orange and diesel has meant that by mixing the two ingredients the spray became far more poisonous. He is adamant that the synergistic effects of mixtures should not be overlooked, nor the surfactants' role in heightening toxicity.

As a non-academic, my only contribution has been writing books on the issues, networking with scientists, veterans and their families. It is not an easy road. However, this Conference will be another step forward in the struggle for the victims of Agent Orange and other toxic chemicals to alert the world of the horrific aftermath of chemical and biological warfare waged against the Vietnamese population and countryside..

Jean R Williams