



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-03-129

Title: Agent Orange

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WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam Veterans have long sought answers about the health effects of exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam Veterans have been told by their government that meaningful studies would be difficult or impossible to conduct; and

WHEREAS, by examining the records from every herbicide spray mission flown over Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia Columbia University scientists announced a breakthrough in April 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia University scientists entered dates, map coordinates and spray volumes into a computer database, this database, was combined with computer-mapping technology to create a system for estimating an individual's exposure to herbicide; and

WHEREAS, this research also found that the amount of dioxin sprayed during the Vietnam War were more than double the previous estimates.

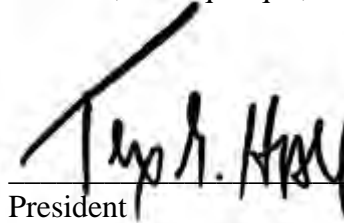
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support the results of these new findings and endorses the National Academy of Science's recommendation that the US government further the research into the links between Agent Orange and specific health conditions such as certain cancers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NCAI is respectfully requesting the United States Congress fund this new research and also to fund all Veterans suffering from the effects of Agent Orange with proper and adequate benefits and with the highest quality healthcare.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

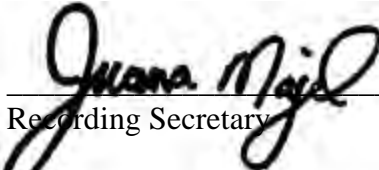
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 60th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, on November 21, 2003 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during 60th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from November 17-21, 2003.