

May 5, 2003

Dr. John H. LeVan
President and Chief Executive Officer
United States - Vietnam Foundation
P.O. Box 4591
Skokie, Illinois 60077-4591

Dear Professor LeVan:

Thank you so much for your very kind invitation to be the Special Speaker at the "International Conference on Cancer in Women and Children," scheduled to be held June 23-24, 2003, in Hanoi. I have, as you know, appreciated the opportunity to participate in your foundation's annual international conference in the past and hope to do so in the future. I also look forward to further opportunities to renew acquaintances and discuss issues of mutual interest with my colleagues at the Vietnam Atomic Energy Commission and the Vietnam Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Authority.

As indicated during our recent telephone conversation, however, I must regretfully decline your invitation to participate this year. I have a personal commitment during this same period (attending my son's graduation from college - hooray!) which, as a Professor and Visiting Scholar at Northwestern I am sure you understand, must take precedence. I also have some personal concerns because of the status of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in Vietnam, where the U.S. Government is still discouraging all but essential travel. So it appears that I might very well have been unable to participate anyway.

I enjoyed chatting with you. I wish you good attendance and much success with this year's conference, and hope that you will think of me again if the focus of the conference returns to responsibilities under NRC's mandate: nuclear safety and security and radiation protection. Please accept my very best regards.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Janice Dunn Lee, Director
Office of International Programs

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