



VIETNAM AGENT ORANGE RELIEF & RESPONSIBILITY CAMPAIGN

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American Public Health Association Adopts Landmark Policy Statement Calling for United States Government & Chemical Companies compensation to Vietnamese Victims of Agent Orange

On November 6, 2007, the American Public Health Association, the largest public health association in the world, adopted a policy statement calling for U.S. government and the chemical companies involved to provide specified compensation to Vietnamese harmed by the spraying of dioxin laden Agent Orange during the war more than 30 years ago. The APHA called for compensation to cover medical care and services, development of community support organizations, chronic care and medical equipment.

The APHA further asks that the U.S. government and involved chemical companies be responsible to remediate those areas in Vietnam which still contain high levels of dioxin (the “hot spots.”)

Mindful of the fact that millions of American veterans of the Vietnam War and their families still suffer the effects of Agent Orange, the American Public Health Association policy statement recommended that the U.S. government continue to address the enduring psychological and physical health effects of Agent Orange on American veterans.

The policy statement further called for federal support for research and promoting of involvement of schools of public health, medicine and dentistry in the study of health consequences of the Vietnam War on all participants.

Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, a leading clinician/researcher from Vietnam and the Chairwoman of the Obstetrics & Gynecology Department of the Medical University of Ho Chi Minh City, who presented scientific findings on the effects of Agent Orange on women and children at the APHA, said, “The APHA policy statement will help to accelerate the present cooperation between the U.S. and Vietnam on remediating the environmental affects of Agent Orange. Three million Vietnamese people are now suffering painful and debilitating effects of Agent Orange and this policy statement will contribute to easing their suffering and improve the public health.”

Susan Schnall, a public health expert with the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign and a Vietnam era Navy veteran, observed that, “Many American veterans will welcome the APHA’s statement because they experience firsthand the terrible consequences of exposure to Agent Orange. As a health professional who has witnessed the suffering of both American soldiers and Vietnamese women and children, I believe that the APHA is doing the right thing!”