

Ford Foundation
Special Initiative on Agent Orange/Dioxin
Charles R. Bailey, Director

Chronology of Key Events

1993 to 2009

Since 2000, the Ford Foundation has been committed to addressing the impact of dioxin in postwar Vietnam. With grants to date totaling some \$11.5 million, the foundation has supported efforts in Vietnam to test for and contain dioxin-contaminated soils, develop treatments and support centers for Vietnamese who have been exposed, restore landscapes, and educate the public and policy makers in the United States. The foundation has played a leadership role in the philanthropic community, increasing awareness and resources around a humanitarian agenda and bringing new donors and supporters to the table. This work has established pilot programs to determine best practices and has created a track record of successful cooperation. The next step is to create a multiyear, staged master plan for the fullest possible solution of the Agent Orange legacy.

However, philanthropy alone cannot solve the issue of Agent Orange. The longer term goal is to use the results achieved by philanthropy to prepare the ground and draw in government-sized resources. Remediation of dioxin “hot spots” has proved to be the most feasible starting point for the United States and Vietnam to work together. On the health side, however, the issue is more complex. The longer term challenge of Agent Orange is to focus resources—funds and expertise—to ensure healthy families, and more particularly, to ensure opportunities for Vietnamese with disabilities to maximize their capabilities and live with self-confidence and self-respect. The main tasks—reaching every citizen in need and sustaining programs over time—will require the reach and scale of government.

The following timeline charts the increasing visibility of the Agent Orange/dioxin issue over the past 16 years and in particular the key role played by the Ford Foundation.

1993

- ❖ Susan V. Berresford, then Ford Foundation vice president for programs, visits Vietnam to explore possibilities for a program to be anchored in a new Ford office in Hanoi. Among the range of topics, Vietnamese note the unresolved issue of Agent Orange.

1997

- ❖ In October, Charles Bailey becomes Ford Foundation representative for Vietnam and Thailand, based in Hanoi.

1998

- ❖ During a March visit to Dak Lak province in Vietnam’s Central Highlands, Charles Bailey and Ngo Thi Le Mai, the foundation’s grants administrator and liaison officer, view denuded mountainsides and talk with local people. They resolve to work toward breaking the impasse on the long-frozen and highly sensitive issue of Agent Orange/dioxin.

2000

- ❖ Foundation trustees and Berresford, by then the foundation’s president, visit Vietnam and meet with Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, who draws their attention to the Agent Orange Victims’ Fund of the Vietnam Red Cross. Foundation officials endorse Bailey’s recommendation of a grant of \$150,000 to the Red Cross for surgical interventions and prosthetic devices for some 1,700 people with Agent Orange-related disabilities in three

southern provinces. This action launches Ford efforts to find a solution to the Agent Orange/dioxin issue.

2002

- ❖ A second grant provides \$289,000 to the 10-80 Committee—a research unit focused on Agent Orange in Vietnam's Ministry of Health. The committee uses the funds for the first scientific survey to assess the status of 2,735 former U.S. military installations throughout central and southern Vietnam. Hatfield Consultants of West Vancouver, British Columbia, works with the 10-80 Committee to collect soil samples from probable dioxin hot spots to be tested at a lab in Canada, one of fewer than a dozen labs worldwide that can detect dioxin in concentrations at or below the level at which they are still toxic.

2003

- ❖ In January, Le Van Bang, then vice minister of foreign affairs, requests that the foundation fund a binational conference on "The Future of the U.S.-Vietnam Relationship." The Institute of International Relations in Hanoi and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies jointly organize the conference at the Carnegie Endowment for international Peace in Washington, D.C., in October. Officials of both governments are invited, along with representatives from academia, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and the business community. Discussions are structured to begin with aspects of the relationship where there is substantial agreement (trade and investment) and move from there to aspects where there is much less agreement (war legacies). This approach allowed, for the first time, open discussion of the Agent Orange legacy in the context of a broadening relationship.

2004

- ❖ Permission for testing of soil samples in Canada stalls. During a May visit to Vietnam, the foundation's trustees meet with Deputy Prime Minister Vu Khoan and push for completion of the project. The samples are subsequently released for testing in Canada.

2005

- ❖ In December, Charles Bailey discusses Agent Orange with Vice Minister Le Van Bang and asks if the Vietnamese think it timely and would welcome an expansion of Ford Foundation efforts in this area. Minister Bang replies affirmatively and identifies Dr. Le Ke Son, director general of the Office of Committee 33, an inter-ministerial group on the chemical consequences of the war, as the point of contact.

2006

- ❖ In February, the 10-80 Committee presents the results from its survey to locate and quantify the toxicity of dioxin hot spots. This strengthens Vietnamese determination to address the issue head-on with the U.S. government.
- ❖ In March, Charles Bailey and Ngo Thi Le Mai are received by Nguyen Minh Triet, the party secretary at the time, in Ho Chi Minh City for a wide-ranging discussion on the consequences of Agent Orange and possible actions. In June, Secretary Triet becomes president of Vietnam.
- ❖ Through grants given to the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (\$450,000) and East Meets West Foundation (\$667,800) in July, the foundation funds programs in Da Nang and Quang Ngai provinces to demonstrate cost-effective ways to provide services to people with disabilities.
- ❖ Also in July, the Hanoi-based Institute of Social Development Studies receives a \$170,600 grant to conduct a survey of people living with disabilities in four provinces where Agent Orange has had high impact.

- ❖ The foundation supports eight Vietnamese scientists to present their research findings on Agent Orange/dioxin in papers accepted by the 26th International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants in Oslo, Norway, in August. At the symposium, Charles Bailey and Ngo Thi Le Mai bring together American and Vietnamese scientists and officials, leading to agreement on how to move forward with containment of dioxin in Da Nang.
- ❖ The foundation then provides funding to Committee 33 in September to assess the dioxin status of Da Nang airport, identify the pathways through which dioxin moves into the surrounding communities and design containment structures (\$462,800). Committee 33 engages Hatfield Consultants and BEM Systems of Chatham, N.J., to assist with the work.
- ❖ Also in September, a grant is awarded to the Vietnam Public Health Association (\$175,000) for a public health survey around another major dioxin hot spot in Bien Hoa and to develop protective measures.
- ❖ On Nov. 13, on the eve of President Bush's visit to Vietnam, the *Washington Post* publishes a front-page story on the Agent Orange issue that highlights the work of the foundation and its partners. (Anthony Faiola, "In Vietnam, Old Foes Take Aim at War's Toxic Legacy," *Washington Post*, Nov. 12, 2006, p. 1). Two videos accompany the article on the *Washington Post* website. The foundation simultaneously holds a news conference in Hanoi ("Ford Foundation Announces Important Series of Grants on Environmental Research and Public Health in Vietnam").
- ❖ At the conclusion of President Bush's November visit, he and President Triet issue a joint statement that for the first time officially acknowledges the dioxin issue and outlines an approach: "... President Triet also expressed appreciation for the U.S. government's increasing development assistance to Vietnam and urged the U.S. side to increase humanitarian assistance including through cooperation on areas such as unexploded ordinance and continued assistance to Vietnamese with disabilities. The United States and Vietnam also agreed that further joint efforts to address the environmental contamination near former dioxin storage sites would make a valuable contribution to the continued development of their bilateral relationship."
- ❖ Tim Rieser, majority clerk of the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs, visits Vietnam in December and meets with the Ford Foundation and other actors. At a Hanoi news conference, he announces that the United States has a "shared responsibility" to address unresolved issues from the war.
- ❖ On Dec. 12, Susan V. Berresford, Charles Bailey and Ngo Thi Le Mai meet in Hanoi with Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, who speaks about the heavy consequences of the war, the millions of people affected by Agent Orange and living with disabilities and the many heavily contaminated areas. He notes that the U.S. government calls for further study of the issue of the human consequences. Meanwhile, people living in the sprayed areas continue to be affected.

2007

- ❖ In February, U.S. Ambassador Michael Marine recognizes the importance of addressing the Agent Orange issue as a prelude to full normalization of relations between the United States and Vietnam. He secures a State Department grant and additional funds from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) totaling \$400,000 toward the cost of dioxin remediation at Da Nang. Charles Bailey builds a collaboration among U.S. Embassy and EPA officials and Vietnamese agencies, and the foundation supplements the State Department

allocation with grant support of \$769,300 to the Vietnamese government to launch the first stages of a cleanup of environmental dioxin at Da Nang airport. The foundation's contribution to the project eventually climbs to \$1.3 million.

- ❖ The U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/Dioxin—a citizens committee of prominent Vietnamese and Americans—assembles in Vietnam for the first time.¹ Over² the course of the second week in February, the group travels to Da Nang, Hue, Thai Binh and Hanoi. The group views the dioxin hot spot at Da Nang, visits dioxin-affected Vietnamese and resolves to work together. The Dialogue Group aims to move Agent Orange/dioxin from an issue of controversy in the United States to one of humanitarian response and to mobilize new resources for five priority tasks. . The tasks are:

- *Expand services to people with disabilities*
- *Restore damaged landscapes*
- *Eliminate dioxin in Da Nang*
- *Raise funds for a high-resolution dioxin laboratory*
- *Educate key publics in the United States*

The Ford Foundation funds this initial effort through a grant of \$61,000 to the Aspen Institute. A subsequent grant of \$317,000 to Aspen provides resources for the American side of the Dialogue Group and related public education and policy development. Two other grants through the Institute of International Education and the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation provide for the activities of the Vietnamese side of the Dialogue Group (\$118,500).

- ❖ Walter Isaacson, Aspen president and CEO and co-chairman of the Dialogue Group, writes an op-ed piece in the March 2 issue of *Time* magazine, "The Last Battle of Vietnam."
- ❖ From March, measurement and characterization of the dioxin hot spot at the north end of the Da Nang airport leads to construction of interim containment measures to immobilize the dioxin and sever the exposure pathways through which it was reaching people working in and living around the airport. The containment measures are completed in January 2008.

¹ The founding members of the Dialogue Group are **Susan V. Berresford**, Convener, and President, Ford Foundation; Ambassador **Ton Nu Thi Ninh**, Dialogue Group Co-Chair, and Vice Chair, Foreign Relations Committee, National Assembly of Vietnam; **Walter Isaacson**, Dialogue Group Co-Chair, and President and CEO, The Aspen Institute; Prof. **Vo Quy**, Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Studies, Vietnam National University, Hanoi; **Bui The Giang**, Deputy Director-General, Party External Relations Committee; **Christine Todd Whitman**, President, Whitman Strategy Group; and **William Mayer**, President and CEO, Park Avenue Equity Partners.

Two persons were later added to make five Members on each side. The new Members are Dr. **Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong**, Chief of Obstetrics & Gynecology of the Medical University of Ho Chi Minh City; Lt. General **Phung Khac Dang**, Vice President, Vietnam Veterans Association; **Mary Dolan-Hogrefe**, Vice President and Senior Advisor, National Organization on Disability; and Dr. **Vaughan Turekian**, Chief International Officer, American Academy for the Advancement of Science.

In the fall of 2008 Ambassador **Ngo Quang Xuan** replaced Madame Ninh as Co-Chair; he is Vice Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly. Bui The Giang was succeeded by **Do Hoang Long**, Deputy Director, People to People Department, Party External Relations Commission.

- ❖ William Mayer, president and CEO of Park Avenue Equity Partners and Dialogue Group member, reflects on his experience in "Return to Vietnam," an article in the May 15 issue of the *Aspen Idea*.
- ❖ At the end of May, President Bush signs a supplemental spending bill that contains a \$3 million allocation endorsed by Senators Patrick Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, and Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky, "... for assistance for Vietnam for environmental remediation of dioxin storage sites and to support health programs in communities near those sites. ... Provided further, That funds made available pursuant to the previous proviso should be matched, to the maximum extent possible, with contributions from other governments, multilateral organizations, and private sources." Dialogue Group members urge moving ahead briskly with these resources.
- ❖ In June, President Nguyen Minh Triet makes the first official visit to the United States of a head of state of a united Vietnam. As the first appointment on his first day, he asks to meet with the Ford Foundation. The Vietnamese consider a "first of a first" to be a particular honor. Surrounded by his foreign minister, the ambassadors to the United States and to the United Nations, the head of the agency overseeing the foundation's work in Vietnam and the Vietnamese co-chairmen of the Dialogue Group, President Triet meets with Susan V. Berresford, Charles Bailey and Ngo Thi Le Mai. They discuss the importance of the Agent Orange issue to Vietnam, and he thanks the foundation for the lead it has taken.
- ❖ The second meeting of the U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/Dioxin is held in New York on June 13 to assess progress and invite participation of other U.S. private foundations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNICEF. Atlantic Philanthropies, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF all express interest.
- ❖ On June 14, in a meeting at the Ford Foundation, Charles Bailey and Ngo Thi Le Mai successfully mediate a disagreement between the EPA and its contractor BEM Systems and Committee 33 and Vietnam's Ministry of Defense, allowing the containment of dioxin at the Da Nang airport to move ahead.
- ❖ On June 20, the U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/Dioxin is publicly launched with the issuance of a press statement: "Joint Humanitarian Group is Launched to Build Support to Overcome Agent Orange Legacies."
- ❖ A pair of grants in August to the Thai Binh Red Cross (\$105,000) and East Meets West Foundation (\$370,100) supports their collaboration in a program to upgrade facilities, train medical and other health care workers and provide surgery, therapy, educational and job opportunities for people with disabilities in the heavily affected province of Thai Binh.
- ❖ On Oct. 1, the Ford Foundation launches a Special Initiative on Agent Orange/Dioxin. Charles Bailey finishes his tenure as the foundation's representative in Hanoi and moves to the foundation's New York headquarters as the initiative's full-time director.
- ❖ In Washington, D.C., the Aspen Institute convenes a meeting of officials from Congress, the administration and NGOs to exchange information and perspectives on the dioxin issue.
- ❖ On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* publishes an article by Susan V. Berresford, "Easing Veterans' Transition to Civilian Life."

- ❖ On Dec. 11, CBC Radio broadcasts a report, "The Legacy of Agent Orange," by Canadian journalist David Kattenburg, drawing on information provided by the foundation.
- ❖ In December, Vietnamese members of the U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group, together with the president of the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations and the Institute of Social Development Studies (ISDS), convene the first national conference in Vietnam on disability and Agent Orange/dioxin. The conference, funded by the Ford Foundation (\$18,000), brings together 250 national and local officials, heads of foreign and domestic NGOs and donors around this issue. It showcases the ISDS study of people with disabilities in four heavily affected provinces of Vietnam.
- ❖ A pair of foundation grants to the Hai Chau District Peoples Committee (\$75,100) and Children of Vietnam (\$136,200) is used to introduce and pilot an innovative case management system for providing individualized health care, education and training to children and young adults with disabilities in Da Nang.

2008

- ❖ Early in the year, the Ford Foundation brokers an agreement between two other U.S. foundations—Atlantic Philanthropies and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—and the Vietnamese government that achieves one of the five priority tasks identified by the Dialogue Group: a high-resolution dioxin testing laboratory in Vietnam. At a news conference in Hanoi on May 18, 2009, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment formally announces the creation of the Vietnam Dioxin Laboratory at a cost of \$6.75 million. Atlantic and Gates provide \$5.3 million in grant support for the project; the Vietnamese government provides the balance.
- ❖ In the last week of January, the U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/Dioxin visits Ho Chi Minh City, Bien Hoa, Quang Ngai, Da Nang and Hanoi. Members talk with families of dioxin-affected Vietnamese and assess projects launched in the year since their last meeting in Vietnam. In Hanoi, they hold discussions with U.S. Ambassador Michael Michalak and his senior staff and with Pham Binh Minh, vice minister of foreign affairs, and conclude with a news conference and individual interviews with Reuters, the Associated Press and Agence France-Presse. The Dialogue Group resolves to "complete Da Nang"—that is, to focus resources on Da Nang to show in one place the elements of a complete solution to the Agent Orange legacy.
- ❖ The Disability Resources Development of the Open University in Ho Chi Minh City receives a foundation grant of \$100,000 in January (supplemented with \$457,000 in August) to promote equal opportunities for young adults with disabilities and support self-help groups in southern Vietnam.
- ❖ Caryl Stern, president of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, and USF board members Anthony Pantaleoni, Peter Lamm and Tea Leoni travel to Vietnam with Charles Bailey and Ngo Thi Le Mai to visit areas affected by Agent Orange and to discuss UNICEF/Vietnam's plans for a new program for children with disabilities.
- ❖ The Aspen Institute convenes its second meeting of officials from Congress, the administration and NGOs to exchange information and perspectives on the dioxin issue. Vietnamese Ambassador Le Cong Phung attends and makes the first official speech on the subject, urging all parties to work together to resolve the issue.
- ❖ In April, the U.S. Fund for UNICEF launches a campaign to match the foundation's challenge grant of \$1 million for a new UNICEF program for children with disabilities in Vietnam. Within

days, the fund meets half its target when a donor from Westchester County pledges \$500,000 to the campaign. By early June, a direct mailing brings in \$800,000 to more than complete the match.

- ❖ On May 15, Delegate Eni Faleomavaega of American Samoa and chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, holds the first-ever hearings on this issue, "Our Forgotten Responsibility: What Can We Do to Help Victims of Agent Orange?" Four of the seven people presenting statements or testifying are associated with the U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/Dioxin. The chairman places the foundation-funded dioxin hot spots survey in the *Congressional Record*.
- ❖ In early June, the Congressional Research Service is asked to prepare the first CRS report on Agent Orange/Dioxin in Vietnam for members of Congress and their staffs.
- ❖ On June 30, Charles Bailey, Ngo Thi Le Mai and David Hulse, now the foundation's representative in Vietnam, meet Pham Xuan Son, vice chairman of the External Relations Commission of the Central Committee, Communist Party of Vietnam. The commission supervises the work of the Foreign Ministry and all other government agencies responsible for the foreign policy and external relations of Vietnam. Mr. Son says that the commission is committed to a better and more comprehensive relationship with the United States; the Agent Orange issue, however, needs to be resolved for this to happen. He endorses the U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/Dioxin and commends the foundation's work in this area.
- ❖ In July, the Institute of Social Development Studies receives a foundation grant of \$218,000 to develop guidelines, training materials and a television program to challenge stigma and discrimination against people with disabilities in Vietnam. Committee 33 utilizes a grant of \$500,000 to analyze, together with Hatfield Consultants, current dioxin levels in soils, sediments, foodstuffs and human biosamples in and around the Da Nang airport. In the United States, the foundation approves a grant of \$78,500 to the National Organization on Disability for a study of U.S. Vietnam veterans' exposure to Agent Orange and dioxin and to U.S. government assistance programs.
- ❖ The Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), the official technical body on Agent Orange/dioxin between the United States and Vietnam, holds its first substantive discussions in September in Hanoi. Ford Foundation staff members and grantees make presentations on the health and environmental dimensions of the issue. The JAC creates task forces on the two subjects.
- ❖ The Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation receives a Ford grant of \$900,000 to continue its Dioxin Resolution Initiative in Vietnam and to conduct public education in the United States. The foundation also awards a grant of \$750,000 to Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped to upgrade social services and organize self-help groups for people with disabilities associated with dioxin in Binh Dinh and Kon Tum provinces and to mobilize Vietnamese-Americans to fund expansion of these programs.
- ❖ On Oct. 29, USAID announces a commitment of the first \$1 million of the \$6 million appropriated by Congress for cleanup of dioxin hot spots and health programs in surrounding communities. The funds go to three American NGOs (East Meets West Foundation, Save the Children and Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped) for a range of direct services to children with disabilities in selected districts in Da Nang City. Two of the three awardees had already developed expertise on this subject through foundation grants they received in 2006 to 2008.

- ❖ American members of the U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/Dioxin, led by Susan V. Berresford and Walter Isaacson, together with Charles Bailey and Catharin Dalpino, director of the foundation-funded Agent Orange project at the Aspen Institute, meet Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Hoang Trung Hai in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 17. They discuss progress on the five tasks and ways to advance longer term solutions.

2009

- ❖ In February, the foundation responds to a request from the Vietnamese government to provide grant support for the logistical costs of the two JAC task forces. The EPA and the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology agree on a field-scale test of a promising bioremediation technology for the Da Nang airport. Support for the task forces and the pilot are funded by foundation grants to Committee 33 (\$189,000) and the EPA (\$37,500).
- ❖ On Feb. 24-25, UNDP and Committee 33 host the first workshop drawing together the principle stakeholders in the cleanup of environmental dioxin: Committee 33, Vietnam Ministry of Defense, U.S. State Department, the EPA and the Czech Republic. Participants share data on the principal dioxin hot spots in Vietnam funded by various sources—Da Nang (Ford Foundation), Phu Cat and Bien Hoa (UNDP)—and reach conclusions about cleanup strategies for all three locations.
- ❖ In Da Nang on Feb. 24, an American philanthropist pledges funds for a new rehabilitation center for children with disabilities associated with dioxin. The pledge is made through the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, which the Ford Foundation brought into the Agent Orange work in 2008.
- ❖ In March, the foundation awards \$80,000 to the Can Tho Disabilities Association to expand its training and business services for young adults with disabilities.
- ❖ On March 3, HDNet World Report airs a 55-minute documentary, “Vietnam’s Lingering Ghost: Facing the Legacy of Agent Orange,” in the United States. The documentary is rebroadcast in May. The foundation worked closely with producer Kira Kay and helped facilitate her filming in Vietnam.
- ❖ On March 4, Charles Bailey gives a talk at American University in Washington, D.C., “America’s Unfinished Business in Vietnam.”
- ❖ Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH), a Ford Foundation grantee, launches a fundraiser in the Vietnamese-American community in Falls Church, Va., on behalf of people with disabilities in Vietnam, including those with conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange. VNAH raises \$65,000 in contributions to further its work in Vietnam.
- ❖ President Obama signs a bill that includes a second \$3 million “for assistance for Vietnam to continue environmental remediation and related health programs at dioxin-contaminated sites.”
- ❖ Vietnamese members of the U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/Dioxin and one American member meet in Da Nang on April 20-21 to observe work in progress at the airport and in the community and to chart next steps. The meeting attracts leaders from national and local levels of the government of Vietnam, local and international NGOs, UNDP, UNICEF and USAID (the U.S. Agency for International Development). Committee 33 presents its definitive work, “Overcoming consequences of toxic chemicals/dioxin—A difficult and long-term task.”

- ❖ The Vietnam Public Health Association receives a foundation grant of \$147,350 to assess the impact of its earlier public health work in Bien Hoa and to introduce similar measures in Da Nang.
- ❖ The University of California-Riverside convenes a conference, *Agent Orange: Landscape, Body, Image*, at which Charles Bailey presents a paper, "Mobilizing Resources for Solutions."
- ❖ The Social Development Research Center in Ho Chi Minh City designs a program of business development for people with disabilities in Bien Hoa, for which it receives foundation support of \$98,000.
- ❖ The Congressional Research Service on May 28 issues a report by Michael Martin on "Vietnamese Victims of Agent Orange and U.S.-Vietnam Relations." Drafts of the report had been critiqued by Charles Bailey and Catharin Dalpino.
- ❖ The U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/Dioxin holds its fourth meeting June 1-4, this time in Washington, D.C. Following a formal conference on the first day, the members meet with senior officials in Washington. The EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention request help to fine-tune the JAC process; the Congressional Research Service seeks a continuing liaison on the Agent Orange issue; the State Department describes use of the \$6 million appropriated; the Senate Foreign Relations Committee requests a briefing note; and the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment schedules hearings at which Dialogue Group members and Ford Foundation staff members testify.
- ❖ On June 1, the National Organization on Disability, an NGO based in Washington, D.C., publishes its study, "U.S. Vietnam Veterans and Agent Orange: Understanding the Impact 40 Years Later," funded by the Ford Foundation.
- ❖ On June 2, Hatfield Consultants and Committee 33 publish "Summary of Dioxin Contamination at the Bien Hoa, Phu Cat and Da Nang Airbases, Vietnam," also funded by the Ford Foundation.

###