

Agent Orange:

As it turns out, this should also be categorized in terms of long-term chemical warfare! (Interestingly enough, initially developed by Monsanto, the strongest GMO advocate!)

“Developed as defoliants ... to destroy vegetation, but are not immediately toxic to human beings (or so it was advertised). Some batches of Agent Orange, for instance, used by the United States in Vietnam, contained dioxins as manufacturing impurities. Dioxins, rather than Agent Orange itself, have, as has been discovered, long-term cancer effects and causes genetic damage leading to serious birth deformities.

“In 1961 and 62 the Kennedy administration authorized the use of chemicals to destroy vegetation and food crops in South Vietnam. Between 1961 and 1967 the US Air Force sprayed 12 million US gallons of concentrated herbicides, mainly Agent Orange (containing dioxin as an impurity in the manufacturing process) over 6 million acres (24,000 km²) of foliage and trees, affecting an estimated 13% of South Vietnam's land. In 1965, 42% of all herbicides were sprayed over food crops. Besides destroying vegetation used as cover by the NLF and destroying food crops the herbicide was used to drive civilians into RVN-controlled areas.

“In 1997, an article published by the Wall Street Journal reported that up to half a million children were born with dioxin related deformities, and that the birth defects in South Vietnam were fourfold those in the North. The use of Agent Orange may have been contrary to international rules of war at the time. It is also of note that the most likely victims of such an assault would be small children. A 1967 study by the Agronomy Section of the Japanese Science Council concluded that 3.8 million acres (15,000 km²) of land had been destroyed, killing 1000 peasants and 13,000 livestock.” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemical_warfare

Picture at right: ***A baby in Tu Du Hospital suffering from the consequences of Agent Orange being dropped on Vietnam 30 years ago.***



<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/VNchemical.htm>:

“The Vietnamese who were exposed to the chemical have suffered from cancer, liver damage, pulmonary and heart diseases, defects to reproductive capacity, and skin and nervous disorders. Children and grandchildren of those exposed have severe physical deformities, mental and physical disabilities, diseases, and shortened life spans. The forests and jungles in large parts of southern Vietnam have been devastated and denuded. They may never grow back and if they do, it will take 50 to 200 years to regenerate. Animals that inhabited the forests and jungles have become extinct, disrupting the communities that depended on them. The rivers and underground water in some areas have also been contaminated. Erosion and desertification will change the environment, contributing to the warming of the planet and dislocation of crop and animal life.”

“In 1973, President Richard Nixon promised \$3.25 billion in reconstruction aid to Vietnam ‘without any preconditions.’ That aid was never granted.” www.globalresearch.ca/

“Vietnam says as many as 4 million of its citizens were exposed to the herbicide and as many as 3 million have suffered illnesses caused by it, but the United States says there is no scientific evidence to link Agent Orange to the illnesses.

“Since 2007, the U.S. Congress has approved \$9 million relating to Agent Orange in Vietnam, mostly to address environmental cleanup. A joint U.S.-Vietnam working group of private citizens, policymakers and scientists called for \$300 million over 10 years to decontaminate sites and provide treatment to Vietnamese with disabilities, including those believed related to dioxin exposure.

“The plan asks the U.S. government to help fund a substantial portion of the project. The Agent Orange issue remains the most contentious legacy between Vietnam and the U.S. since the war ended so many years ago.”

AP News wire of June 29, 2010, entitled, “***UN starts \$5M Agent Orange cleanup at Vietnam base***”

It literally took decades for the U.S. Government and the VA to acknowledge the effects of Agent Orange on our own servicemen fighting in the jungles of Vietnam and one potential reason may have been the international politics of perhaps having to acknowledge the human wasteland that chemical left in the lives of the Vietnam citizenry.

(A similar battle with the DoD and VA has been on-going concerning ailments referred to as Gulf War Syndrome, see the topic “Depleted Uranium”)

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