

The majority of the participants have reached agreement on the following:

1. Operation Ranchhand was essentially a chemical war conducted with herbicides on a large scale in space and time, the first such massive employment in mankind's history of war and differed completely from explosion accidents or failures in chemical factories.

It was conducted in a tropical country and a geographical area which differs from much smaller-scale experiments in laboratories in any country in the world, or from small experiments of partial usefulness to evaluate what had happened to Vietnam and the Vietnamese people during operation Ranch hand.

The herbicide employed in operation Ranch hand included primarily:

- (1) 2,4-d
- (2) 2,4,5-t (containing dioxin)
- (3) picloram
- (4) dimethyl arsini (cacodylic acid)

These four chemicals were applied primarily in the following three mixtures:

- (1) agent orange (a mixture of 2,4-d and 2,4,5-t)
- (2) agent white (a mixture of 2,4-d and picloram)
- (3) agent blue (dimethyl arsinic or cacodylic acid).

According to official United States figures, about 44 million litres of agent orange were used between 1961-1970, about 20 million litres of agent white were used between 1966-1971, and about 3 million litres of agent blue were used between 1961-1971. There is no source of independent verification. It is impossible to determine how much dioxin was in the agent orange, but a conservative estimate is that the total amount was no less than 170 kg.

2. Over the last twenty-odd years, many experimental studies on herbicides and defoliants have been conducted in research bases of many countries. No full agreement has been reached yet on the results and conclusions regarding the effects of chemicals on experimental animals. However, through many years of research with admirable patience and increasingly precise methods, the majority of scientists recognize that phenoxy and certain other herbicides and defoliants used at a high dose or at a low dose for a long period of time will affect animals: they may be variously mutagenic, carcinogenic or teratogenic.

3. Studies on workers in factories over the last few years. Those studies confirm the toxicity of herbicides, especially of 2,4,5-t (2,4,5-trichloro phenoxy acetic acid) and of 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-para-dioxin (TCDD) or dioxin.

The signs of immediate and long-term poisoning due to chlorophenoxy acetic substances have been described in the medical literature in which manifestations considered as characterizing such poisoning are: chlorane, porphyria cutanea tarda, asthenia, etc. In human pathology reactions to the pathogenic agents differ from one individual to another, so do the manifestations of the reactions, which render evaluation and statistics difficult.