

Archival records at National Archives Center III on the use of chemical agents during the Vietnam War: value and accessibility

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Abstract

The use of chemical agents during the Vietnam War and their long-term consequences for the environment and human health have been studied from multiple perspectives. However, many published studies have relied primarily on experimental data, military records, and archival sources in the United States, while archival sources created and preserved in Vietnam have been used only to a limited extent in the existing literature. Based on an on-site survey at National Archives Center III, one of Vietnam's five National Archives Centers, this article identifies and introduces groups of records related to the use of chemical agents during the Vietnam War, as well as records documenting subsequent investigation, research, and efforts to address the consequences of the war. It then examines the informational and evidential value of these sources for research on the history of the Vietnam War, environmental history, public health, and selected interdisciplinary fields, while also assessing their accessibility and issues arising in their use. The study introduces to the international scholarly community a body of archival sources that remains underused and highlights the potential to connect records held in Vietnam with international archival sources and datasets in research on the long-term consequences of war.

Keywords: archival records; chemical agents; Vietnam War; consequences of war; National Archives Center III.

1. Research Context and Sources Used in Previous Studies

The consequences of war in general, and of the war in Vietnam from 1954 to 1975 in particular, did not end when military operations ceased. They continued to affect the environment, human health, and social life, and they are reflected in a large body of records created through processes of documentation, investigation, research, and efforts to address the consequences of war. The use of chemical agents during the Vietnam War is a prominent example. For decades, this issue has been studied from historical, environmental, medical, epidemiological, toxicological, and public-health perspectives. Researchers have used a wide range of sources, from field and experimental data to archival records, with military records and archival sources in the United States playing a particularly important role. By contrast, relevant archival sources preserved in Vietnam have appeared only sporadically in some recent studies.

Based on this preliminary review, the authors identify several major research directions and the principal sources used in published studies:

First, studies reconstructing wartime chemical-spraying operations from military records and data. Stellman et al. (2003) used data on spraying operations recorded by the U.S. military to reconstruct the spatial and temporal extent of Agent Orange and other herbicide use during the Vietnam War. On this basis, the authors developed a database that has subsequently been used in numerous exposure studies. Young (2009) drew on a large body of U.S. military records, scientific reports, and historical data, particularly records created by the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Air Force, to examine the development, production, transport, use, and disposal of Agent Orange, as well as related environmental issues¹. Overall, these studies relied primarily on records and data produced by U.S. agencies.

Second, studies of the environmental and health consequences of wartime chemical use in Vietnam, based on field investigations combined with archival records. Many studies have examined the persistence of dioxin contamination associated with Agent Orange and its long-term environmental and health effects. Schechter et al. (1995) analyzed biological samples, including breast milk, adipose tissue, and blood, collected from people living in sprayed areas of southern and central Vietnam, and compared them with samples collected in northern Vietnam, where Agent Orange was not sprayed, to assess exposure to TCDD (2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin). Dwernychuk et al. (2002), based on surveys in the A Luoi Valley (Hue, Vietnam), analyzed TCDD in soil, sediment, food, and biological samples to investigate the persistence and movement of contaminants through the food chain. More recently, Le et al. (2022) combined historical data on herbicide spraying, derived from U.S. military records, with data from the 2001–2002 Vietnam National Health Survey to analyze long-term health effects.

¹ A substantial portion of the materials collected by Alvin L. Young is now preserved in the Alvin L. Young Collection on Agent Orange at the National Agricultural Library, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland. <https://www.nal.usda.gov/collections/special-collections/alvin-l-young-collection-agent-orange> (Accessed September 30, 2026)

Third, studies of policymaking, the formation of scientific knowledge, and scientific debates concerning the use of chemical agents during the Vietnam War, based on archival sources in the United States. Zierler (2011) examined the use of herbicides during the Vietnam War and the emergence of the concept of ecocide and the associated scientific and international debates over environmental destruction, drawing primarily on declassified records and open sources from the United States. Martini (2012) used records from military biological laboratories, archival holdings at various institutions, and specialized collections in the United States to examine Agent Orange at the intersection of history, science, and policy. These sources enabled the authors to study not only the wartime use of herbicides but also policymaking, the production of scientific knowledge, and postwar debates.

Fourth, several studies have begun to use sources in Vietnam. In his study of Agent Blue, Olson (2023) focused on the use of herbicides containing arsenic compounds² and noted the possible existence of supplementary sources at National Archives Center II, although these materials were not identified at the fonds and file levels. More broadly, Le and Bailey (2017) synthesized research and remediation efforts concerning Agent Orange/dioxin in Vietnam on the basis of studies, reports, and information on the activities of Committee 10-80³, Steering Committee 33⁴, and Vietnam-U.S. cooperation programs. Their work provides an overview of investigation, scientific research, policymaking, and cooperation aimed at addressing the consequences of war.

Overall, research on the use of chemical agents during the Vietnam War and its postwar consequences has drawn on diverse sources, including field-survey data, environmental and health data, military records, scientific reports, and archival materials. Nevertheless, U.S. archival sources and data, particularly military records, remain prominent, while sources created and preserved in Vietnam have appeared only to a limited extent in the studies reviewed. At the same time, Vietnam's National Archives Centers and provincial historical archives preserve substantial bodies of records created during the war and through subsequent investigation, research, and efforts to address its consequences. Bringing these sources into research is not intended to replace previously used materials. Rather, they can add information and evidence, enable comparison across source systems, and contribute to more comprehensive and multi-dimensional research on the consequences of war.

² Agent Blue was an herbicide whose principal active ingredients were cacodylic acid (dimethylarsinic acid) and its sodium salt, sodium cacodylate, both organic arsenic compounds.

³ Committee 10-80 is the abbreviated name of the National Committee for Investigation of the Consequences of U.S. Chemical Warfare in Vietnam, established under Decision No. 288-TTg dated October 15, 1980. In 1987, it was renamed the National Committee for Investigation of the Consequences of Chemicals Used in the Vietnam War under Decision No. 213/HĐBT dated November 9, 1987, while retaining the abbreviated name Committee 10-80 (Prime Minister of Vietnam, 1980; Council of Ministers of Vietnam, 1987).

⁴ Steering Committee 33 is the commonly used name of the National Steering Committee for Overcoming the Consequences of Toxic Chemicals Used by the United States in the War in Vietnam, established under Prime Ministerial Decision No. 33/1999/QĐ-TTg dated March 1, 1999 (Prime Minister of Vietnam, 1999).

To examine this issue further, the following section surveys and introduces records preserved at National Archives Center III, which holds substantial material relevant to the topic. The article addresses three main questions: (1) which fonds, groups of files, and types of records related to the use of chemical agents during the Vietnam War and its postwar consequences are currently preserved at National Archives Center III; (2) what informational and evidential value these sources have, and how they can be used in research on the history of the Vietnam War, environmental history, public health, and interdisciplinary fields; and (3) what conditions, procedures, and other issues shape access to and use of these records. The article does not seek to reassess the toxicity of the chemical agents or establish causal relationships between their use and specific environmental or health outcomes. Its primary object of study is the archival source base in Vietnam, specifically at National Archives Center III, and the potential use of these records to study wartime chemical use and its consequences. Identifying, introducing, and analyzing sources in Vietnam, while placing them in a complementary and comparative relationship with international records and datasets, may broaden the evidentiary base for research on the long-term consequences of war and postwar remediation in Vietnam.

2. Overview of the Quantity, Types, and Content of Archival Sources at National Archives Center III

2.1. Historical Archives in Vietnam and National Archives Center III

Under the 2024 Law on Archives, Vietnam's historical archive system is organized at the central and provincial levels. These institutions directly manage archival records of permanent value and carry out accessioning, preservation, archival statistics, digitization, access provision, and promotion of archival value (National Assembly of Vietnam, 2024). At the central level, five National Archives Centers operate under the State Records and Archives Department of Vietnam; at the local level, provincial historical archives manage archival records of permanent value under provincial jurisdiction.

National Archives Center III, located in Hanoi, preserves major bodies of records created by central state agencies in Vietnam since the August Revolution of 1945, along with numerous collections and other historically valuable materials. The scope and diversity of these holdings make the Center an important repository for research on modern Vietnamese history, including the Vietnam War and its long-term consequences. The records preserved at the Center serve not only historical research but also a range of continuing social and policy purposes.

Selecting National Archives Center III for this study does not imply that all relevant records are concentrated there. Other sources may be held at the other National Archives Centers, provincial historical archives, and related agencies and organizations. National Archives Center III is examined here as a case study to provide a preliminary identification of the structure, content, and accessibility of archival sources created in Vietnam concerning chemical use and the subsequent processes of investigation, research, and remediation.

2.2. Scope of the Survey, Quantity, and Types of Records

The study used the finding aids at National Archives Center III and directly examined selected representative files. The research team first identified fonds and files with relevant content and then reviewed specific files to determine the types of information and subjects reflected in the records. This approach matters because file titles do not always fully describe their contents; relevant information may appear in records created by different agencies, at different times, and for different purposes. Through this process, the team identified dozens of files directly or indirectly related to the use of chemical agents and the consequences of war. The records span the wartime period and extend for several decades after 1975. They include reports, official correspondence, statistical tables, conference materials, scientific research documents, international-cooperation files, maps and environmental data, and numerous survey forms on health and everyday life. This diversity reflects multiple stages of record creation, from documenting wartime events and damage to postwar investigation, scientific research, policymaking, and remediation.

Among the sources surveyed, two fonds contain a particularly concentrated body of files on this topic. Under the Center's requirements, however, the official names of these two fonds and the reference codes of their files are coded in this article as Fonds A (Files A-01, A-02, etc.) and Fonds B (Files B-01, B-02, etc.). The authors retain complete reference information; any further disclosure remains subject to the repository's rules on access and use. It is important to note that Fonds A and Fonds B are not specialized fonds devoted to chemical agents. Their scope is much broader and includes records concerning bombing damage, prisoners of war and surrendered personnel, losses of life and property, and activities related to the investigation and study of war consequences. This article examines only those files and records related to the use of chemical agents and the consequences subsequently documented. Relevant materials also appear in other fonds, including the National Assembly Fonds, the Prime Minister's Office Fonds, and the Ministry of Health Fonds [see Appendix, Figure 1].

The records identified above are grouped into four broad content categories for discussion: (1) records documenting the use of chemical agents during the war; (2) records on environmental effects; (3) records on consequences for people and health; and (4) records on scientific research, international cooperation, and postwar remediation. This grouping is used only for analytical purposes and does not replace the archival principle of organizing records by fonds.

2.3. Records Documenting the Use of Chemical Agents During the War

This group includes reports, statistical tables, and other records documenting the use of chemical agents during the war. The records contain information on such matters as time, location, methods of use, types of chemical agents, and damage to crops, agricultural production, or affected areas. Some files in Fonds A have relatively clear information structures, with incidents of chemical spraying recorded by time and location. These statistical tables provide direct evidence of how agencies collected and systematized information concerning chemical use. In some tables, information on

time, location, and the number of recorded incidents is presented in a relatively consistent structure, facilitating comparison across cases [see Appendix, Figure 2].

2.4. Records on the Environmental Consequences of Chemical Agents

The second group consists of records concerning the effects of war in general, and chemical use in particular, on soil, forests, vegetation, water resources, crops, animals, and living environments in Vietnam, especially in areas subjected to chemical spraying. Some records were created during the war, while others resulted from statistical work or research conducted in the years that followed. Within Fonds A, the research team identified records addressing relationships among war, the environment, and people, as well as statistical tables on forest area and growing stock lost/destroyed during the war. Some tables record such information as area, forest type, and the degree of damage attributed to chemical spraying [see Appendix, Figure 3 and 4].

These records may support environmental-history research in two ways. First, they show how environmental effects were recorded and understood within wartime and postwar contexts. Second, statistically structured records create opportunities for comparison with historical maps, forest data, and other forms of spatial information from different periods. However, these historical data must be interpreted in relation to the context and methods through which each file was created before they are used in new analyses.

2.5. Records on the Consequences of Chemical Agents for People and Health

The third group consists of files created through investigations into the human consequences of war, particularly in the postwar period. Fonds B contains a substantial body of standardized survey forms in which the primary unit of information is an individual or household. File B-01, created from a 1999 survey in Long Xuyen City, An Giang Province in southern Vietnam, contains 493 survey forms. The forms collected multiple categories of information on residents of affected areas, including name, year of birth, sex, place of birth and residence, locations where respondents had previously lived or worked, ability to work, health status, illnesses, reproductive history, children, and social assistance. Another file, B-02, contains 677 survey forms from Yen Bai Province in northern Vietnam from the same year. This group of records has two notable characteristics. On the one hand, it documents state investigations and the ways in which war consequences were recorded through specific criteria. On the other hand, the repeated structure of standardized forms creates the potential to construct historical datasets on population, health, and social conditions if the records are processed using appropriate methods. Because the forms contain extensive personal and health information, however, digitization does not automatically mean that all data can be made public. This issue is considered further in the discussion of access and use [see Appendix, Figure 5].

2.6. Records on Scientific Research, International Cooperation and Postwar Remediation

The fourth group reflects a shift from documenting wartime consequences to scientific research, international cooperation, policymaking, and organized remediation in the decades after the war. Searches in Fonds A and Fonds B identified numerous files related to international scientific conferences, the activities of Vietnamese and foreign scientists, research on the effects of chemicals on human health, and programs investigating postwar consequences. Relevant files also appear in several other fonds. For example, the Office of the Council of Ministers Fonds includes a 1983 file on research cooperation with the Soviet Union concerning the consequences of chemical warfare. Relevant records are also found in the Government Office Fonds, the President/Office of the President Fonds, and the National Assembly Fonds. These materials include records on dioxin-related research, assistance policies, investigations of war consequences, and postwar remediation activities. The survey shows that these sources are distributed across multiple fonds. Their significance lies in the ability to trace changes over time in how the issue was addressed: from documenting wartime events and damage to scientific research, professional cooperation, social administration, and the development of remediation policies. They also show how the consequences of war became a subject of scientific inquiry and a basis for international cooperation over several subsequent decades.

In addition to files on scientific research and international cooperation, some records document the development of social and policy mechanisms to support people affected by toxic chemicals. For example, Decision No. 105/1998/QĐ-TTg of June 9, 1998 (Prime Minister of Vietnam, 1998) authorized the Vietnam Red Cross Society to establish a fund to support victims of Agent Orange from the war in Vietnam, with the aim of mobilizing domestic and international humanitarian assistance for affected people. This record shows that responses to the consequences of war extended beyond scientific and environmental research and were gradually institutionalized through social and humanitarian support mechanisms [see Appendix, Figure 6].

Overall, the sources surveyed at National Archives Center III do not constitute a single thematic collection. They are distributed across multiple fonds, created by different agencies and at different times. This characteristic makes the sources more difficult to discover, but it also enables researchers to study the same issue through different types of evidence.

3. Research Value and Accessibility of the Archival Sources

Identifying groups of records at National Archives Center III that relate to the research topic is only the first step in establishing the source base. The next task is to assess their value and accessibility. The value of these records depends not only on the content they contain but also on their context of creation, their potential for comparison with other sources, and the conditions under which researchers can discover, access, and use them. Based on the preliminary survey, the research value and potential use of these sources can be considered from several perspectives.

3.1. Informational Value and Evidential Value

First, the records surveyed provide relatively diverse information on the use of chemical agents during the war and on consequences documented in later periods. They record the time, location, and activities associated with wartime chemical use in Vietnam; effects on soil, forests, crops, and living environments; information on impacts on human health and everyday life; and activities related to scientific research, international cooperation, policymaking, and postwar remediation. These records can therefore support research not only on the history of war but also on environmental history, history of health and medicine, public health, the history of science, and related interdisciplinary fields. A notable feature is their temporal range: the records were not created only while the war was taking place but also many years or even decades afterward, showing how investigation, research, and responses to the consequences continued over time. When examined together, these layers of records make it possible to follow an issue from wartime into the postwar period rather than viewing it at a single moment.

In addition to informational value, the records also have evidential value in relation to the activities of the agencies that created them. Reports, statistical tables, survey forms, research files, and policy documents not only contain information on the war and its consequences; they also document activities of recording, investigation, statistical compilation, research, administration, and remediation undertaken at different times. Statistical tables, for example, show how information was collected and systematized, while postwar survey forms reveal the categories and criteria selected when state agencies investigated consequences for affected populations. In this sense, the value of the records lies not only in “what the records say” but also in the activities and contexts that produced them. Informational and evidential value, however, do not mean that every figure or statement in the records can be treated as a scientifically verified conclusion. Each file must be interpreted in relation to its context, purpose, and method of creation. This is a necessary condition for using archival records to address new research questions.

These records add a layer of sources created in Vietnam alongside U.S. military records and data that have been widely used in previous research. Comparison across the sources may reveal similarities, differences, or cases recorded in only one source system. When statistical tables are used for quantitative analysis, however, researchers need to clarify the scope of data collection, the original information sources, and the methods used by the creating agency to verify the information.

3.2. Complementary Value and Comparison with International Sources

An important value of the sources at National Archives Center III is their potential to complement and be compared with archival materials already used extensively in previous research. As noted above, many earlier studies relied primarily on U.S. military records, spraying data, and archival sources in the United States. A multidimensional assessment can be strengthened by bringing Vietnamese archival records into the analysis, thereby providing additional perspectives. Their complementary value derives in part from differences in provenance. Vietnamese archival sources should

not, however, be treated as inherently “more complete” or “more accurate” than records preserved in the United States. The more important point is that the same historical event or consequence may have been documented by different actors and within different recordkeeping systems. A location appearing in U.S. spraying data may also be documented in a Vietnamese report, statistical table, environmental record, or postwar survey. Placing these sources alongside one another may help identify similarities, differences, and gaps across systems of evidence.

This comparative potential is particularly significant for international research. Rather than treating Vietnamese archival records as a source for confirming or refuting an existing body of evidence, they can be approached as a distinct evidentiary layer with different provenance that can complement other sources and support cross-checking. Such an approach may produce a more multidimensional reconstruction of wartime chemical use and its consequences, while also opening questions that cannot easily be addressed through a single source system. This is one of the most significant contributions of the holdings at National Archives Center III to the research direction proposed in this article: placing records created in Vietnam in comparative relation with international archival records, datasets, and research findings.

3.3. Potential for the Use of Information and Data

In addition to traditional close reading and analysis of records, part of the archival material surveyed has information structures that may support extraction and use as research data. Statistical tables recording the time and location of wartime chemical spraying can be standardized for spatial analysis; data on forests and environments affected by chemicals can be compared with maps or datasets from other periods; and standardized survey forms may allow information on place, population, health, and social conditions to be structured for analysis. Among the files surveyed, this potential is particularly visible in statistical tables and repeated sets of standardized survey forms. It is relevant in a context in which digital methods are increasingly used in environmental history, spatial history, and interdisciplinary research. Le et al. (2022), for example, demonstrate how historical data on herbicide spraying can be linked with health data collected decades later to examine long-term health effects. Similar work with records at National Archives Center III might include standardizing place names, mapping, comparing environmental change, or linking layers of data created during the war and in the postwar period.

Archival records, however, do not automatically become research data simply because they are digitized or entered into a data table. Before use, researchers need to clarify provenance, purpose of creation, scope of collection, and the consistency of the information. Extracted data should also retain links to the original files so that researchers can verify the context and source of individual data points. For files containing personal and health information, use must also take privacy requirements into account. The data potential of these records should therefore be understood as conditional, depending on source quality, methods of processing, and the legal conditions governing the use of information.

3.4. Accessibility of the Records

The value of these records can be realized only when researchers are able to discover the sources, identify file reference codes, and complete the procedures required for access. The survey at National Archives Center III indicates a practical difficulty: records relevant to this topic are not concentrated in a thematic collection but are distributed across many fonds and described using different terms. Searches limited to direct keywords such as “toxic chemicals,” “Agent Orange,” or “dioxin” may therefore miss files whose titles refer more broadly to the environment, forests, health, consequences of war, or scientific cooperation. Discoverability thus depends substantially on finding aids, the level of archival description, and the researcher's understanding of the agencies that created the records. This may also help explain why some sources in Vietnam remain underrepresented in international scholarship: the issue is not only whether the sources exist, but whether researchers know about them and can locate them.

Once a file has been identified, the next issue is access. During the survey, the research team found that some files, particularly records created before 1975, are subject to conditional access. Vietnam's 2024 Law on Archives, effective July 1, 2025, together with Decree No. 113/2025/ND-CP, provides the current legal framework for archival management and access; Circular No. 06/2025/TT-BNV further specifies forms of archival use. More recently, Decision No. 523/QĐ-BNV of May 13, 2026, issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, approved a list of archival records subject to conditional access in selected fonds held at the National Archives Centers. Access should therefore not be understood simply as a binary condition of “open” or “closed.” For researchers, relevant factors also include the ability to determine access conditions in advance, application procedures, processing time, the possibility of obtaining copies or digital files, and restrictions on publication. These factors directly affect whether a source can be incorporated into a research design, particularly for international researchers whose time at an archival repository may be limited.

3.5. Some Considerations in Accessing and Using the Sources

Gaining access to a record does not mean that all information within it can be used directly as verified data. Reports, statistical tables, and survey forms were created under different circumstances and for different purposes. When using them in new research, scholars therefore need to consider the creating agency, purpose of creation, scope of information collection, and method of data recording, and to compare them with independent sources whenever possible. For this topic, comparison between sources in Vietnam and U.S. records and data, environmental research findings, health data, and other materials is particularly important. A statistical table in an archival file may provide evidence that an agency recorded and systematized information at a particular time, but it cannot automatically be treated as a complete dataset of all activities that occurred. Similarly, health survey forms from people living in affected areas document an investigation and the information collected, but they are not sufficient in themselves to establish a causal relationship between exposure and a specific medical condition.

As a general principle, records preserved at National Archives Center III are made available through the forms of access applicable to Vietnam's historical archives, including on-site use in the reading room, online access, and the provision of copies upon request. Researchers can consult finding aids, identify the files they wish to use, and complete the procedures required to request access, copies, or authentication. For digitized records, researchers may use digital copies; some records and descriptive information have also been made available through online systems to support remote discovery and access. Actual accessibility, however, depends on the processing and digitization status of the records, the level of archival description, and the access regime applicable to each fonds and file.

For on-site use, the Center serves researchers in its Reading Room at 34 Phan Ke Binh Street, Hanoi. Under current procedures, users are required to present appropriate identification; those using records for official work may also be required to submit a letter of introduction or an official request from their employing organization. After registration and approval, users may request to consult records, obtain copies, or request authentication in accordance with applicable rules. Information on file searches and procedures for accessing and using records is also available through the online system (<https://dichvucong.luutru.gov.vn/service-details>). Accessibility at the Center therefore depends not only on whether records have been digitized but also on conditions of use and restrictions applicable to particular categories of records. This general framework provides the basis for considering the accessibility of the files on wartime chemical use and its consequences examined in this study.

4. Discussion

The survey at National Archives Center III raises several issues that warrant further discussion and investigation.

First, why have archival sources in Vietnam relating to wartime chemical use and its postwar consequences remained relatively underused, particularly in international research? The survey indicates that relevant records are not concentrated in a single fonds or thematic collection but are distributed across multiple fonds, created by different agencies, and described in different ways. In addition, information about these sources may still be introduced and disseminated only to a limited extent within the research community, especially internationally. This raises questions about the role of finding aids, the level of archival description and source promotion, the availability of remote information, and researchers' familiarity with Vietnam's archival system. These factors require further examination in order to understand why some existing sources remain little known and underused.

Second, how should researchers assess the value of the sources at National Archives Center III in relation to materials that have been more widely used? Records created in Vietnam and U.S. records and datasets have different provenance, purposes of creation, and historical contexts. In the authors' view, the issue is therefore not to determine which source system is "more correct" or "more reliable," but to examine how different sources can complement one another and support comparison and cross-

checking. Similarities, differences, and gaps across record systems may clarify an event, location, or issue and may also generate new research questions.

Third, how can access be expanded and what methods can be developed to use these sources more effectively? One direction for discussion is to improve the identification and linking of information across fonds, files, and archival repositories without altering the principle of organization by fonds. Standardizing selected information, such as place names, dates, subjects, and creating agencies, may support comparison across sources. For records with suitable structures, digital methods such as mapping, GIS, or linkage with environmental and health data may also be considered, provided that the information is interpreted within its context of creation and remains linked to the original files.

More broadly, the case of National Archives Center III suggests the value of extending the survey to other National Archives Centers, provincial historical archives, and related agencies. It also points to the need for greater exchange among archivists, historians, environmental and health scientists, and international researchers concerning archival sources, research methods, and cross-source comparison. Such activities may provide a basis for collaborative research on the long-term consequences of war while helping archival sources in Vietnam become more visible and more widely used in international scholarship.

5. Conclusion

The survey at National Archives Center III shows that Vietnam preserves valuable archival sources on wartime chemical use and on subsequent investigation, research, and remediation. These sources can complement archival records and datasets already widely used internationally and can broaden opportunities for comparative and multidimensional research. Future work should extend surveys to other archival repositories in Vietnam while strengthening collaboration between Vietnamese scholars and researchers in the United States and other countries through joint studies, scholarly conferences, source sharing, and international publication. Expanding responsible access to and use of archival records can contribute to a fuller understanding of the long-term consequences of war and provide additional historical and scientific foundations for research on the impacts of chemical use in war and other conflict settings.

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- Ministry of Home Affairs of Vietnam. (2025). *Thông tư số 06/2025/TT-BNV ngày 15/5/2025 quy định chi tiết một số điều của Luật Lưu trữ* [Circular No. 06/2025/TT-BNV dated May 15, 2025, detailing several provisions of the Law on Archives].
- Ministry of Home Affairs of Vietnam. (2026). *Quyết định số 523/QĐ-BNV ngày 13/5/2026 phê duyệt Danh mục tài liệu lưu trữ tiếp cận có điều kiện của một số phòng lưu trữ đang được bảo quản tại các Trung tâm Lưu trữ quốc gia* [Decision No. 523/QĐ-BNV dated May 13, 2026, approving the list of archival records subject to conditional access in selected fonds held at the National Archives Centers].

National Assembly of Vietnam. (2024). *Luật Lưu trữ số 33/2024/QH15 ngày 21/6/2024* [Law on Archives No. 33/2024/QH15 dated June 21, 2024].

Prime Minister of Vietnam. (1980). *Quyết định số 288-TTg ngày 15/10/1980 về việc thành lập Ủy ban Quốc gia điều tra hậu quả chiến tranh hóa học của Mỹ ở Việt Nam* [Decision No. 288-TTg dated October 15, 1980, establishing the National Committee for Investigation of the Consequences of U.S. Chemical Warfare in Vietnam].

Prime Minister of Vietnam. (1998). *Quyết định số 105/1998/QĐ-TTg ngày 09/6/1998 về việc cho phép Hội Chữ thập đỏ Việt Nam thành lập Quỹ bảo trợ nạn nhân chất độc da cam do chiến tranh ở Việt Nam* [Decision No. 105/1998/QĐ-TTg dated June 9, 1998, authorizing the Vietnam Red Cross Society to establish the Fund for the Support of Victims of Agent Orange from the War in Vietnam]

Prime Minister of Vietnam. (1999). *Quyết định số 33/1999/QĐ-TTg ngày 01/3/1999 về việc thành lập Ban Chỉ đạo Quốc gia khắc phục hậu quả chất độc hóa học do Mỹ sử dụng trong chiến tranh ở Việt Nam* [Decision No. 33/1999/QĐ-TTg dated March 1, 1999, establishing the National Steering Committee for Overcoming the Consequences of Toxic Chemicals Used by the United States in the War in Vietnam]

3. Archival Sources

National Archives Center III. Fonds A, File A-01. Statistical records on incidents involving the use of chemical agents in South Vietnam, 1963–1967.

National Archives Center III. Fonds A, File A-02. Records on war and the living environment in South Vietnam, 1973.

National Archives Center III. Fonds A, File A-03. Statistical records on forest area and growing stock lost/destroyed during the war, 1968–1975.

National Archives Center III. Fonds B, File B-01. Survey forms on the consequences of toxic chemicals in Long Xuyen City, An Giang Province, 1999.

National Archives Center III. Fonds B, File B-02. Survey forms on the consequences of toxic chemicals in the town and districts of Yen Bai Province, 1999.

National Archives Center III. President/Office of the President Fonds, Files 540–544. Records on responses to, research on, and remediation of the consequences of toxic chemicals/dioxin, 1998–2004.

National Archives Center III. Prime Minister's Office Fonds, Files 18045 and 18408. Records on the use of toxic chemicals and investigation of their consequences in Vietnam, 1965–1973.

National Archives Center III. National Assembly and Its Agencies Fonds, File 737 (1962) and File 1824 (1998). Records related to the use of toxic chemicals and research on their consequences.

National Archives Center III. Office of the Council of Ministers Fonds, File 12777. File on research cooperation with the Soviet Union concerning the consequences of chemical warfare in Vietnam, 1983.

National Archives Center III. Government Office Fonds, File 1583, fols. 59–60. Decision No. 105/1998/QĐ-TTg dated June 9, 1998.

Appendix

Certain expressions in the archival documents reflect the political and rhetorical terminology of the period. Where such expressions are retained in translation, they are presented as the language of the original sources and do not represent the terminology adopted by the authors. The source list and archival materials reproduced in this appendix correspond to the illustrative figures discussed in the article. They are presented at a larger scale to improve readability, with abridged English translations provided. In accordance with the conditions governing the use of the archival materials, the identities and reference details of two fonds are retained in coded form as Fonds A and Fonds B. Where necessary, identifying or personal information has been omitted or redacted. The reproductions are intended solely to illustrate the source types analysed in the article and do not represent publication of the files in their entirety. The translations retain the information necessary to understand the evidential content of each reproduced record; repetitive administrative wording and information not relevant to the present study have been omitted. Omissions are indicated where necessary.

Figure 1. Excerpt from a working list of files and records related to wartime chemical use and its postwar consequences, compiled during the survey at National Archives Center III

Vietnamese original

1. Phòng: Quốc Hội và các cơ quan của Quốc Hội | Mục lục: Mục lục 1 (1945-1992)

Tiêu đề hồ sơ: Hồ sơ kỷ họp thứ tư của QH Khóa II từ ngày 17 - 26.4. 1962. Tập 6: Tham luận của ĐBQH về hôn nhân và gia đình, kiểm tra chấp hành chế độ quản lý kinh tế tài chính, tăng cường KHKT trong nông nghiệp, quản lý văn vật, lên án Mỹ dùng *chất độc hóa học* ở miền Nam (tham luận không đọc ở hội trường).

Số hồ sơ: 737

2. Phòng: Quốc Hội và các cơ quan của Quốc Hội | Mục lục: Quốc hội khóa X (1997-2002)

Tiêu đề hồ sơ: Công văn của Bộ KHCN&MT v/v chương trình nghiên cứu đánh giá hậu quả *chất độc hóa học* năm 1998.

Số hồ sơ: 1824

3. Phòng: Phủ Thủ tướng | Mục lục: Mục lục 3 (1954-1985)

Tiêu đề hồ sơ: Hồ sơ v/v chống âm mưu dùng *chất độc hóa học* của Mỹ ở Việt Nam năm 1965.

Số hồ sơ: 18045

4. Phòng: Phủ Thủ tướng | Mục lục: Mục lục 3 (1954-1985)

Tiêu đề hồ sơ: Hồ sơ về cuộc điều tra hậu quả *chất độc hóa học* do địch thả ở Quảng Trị năm 1973.

Số hồ sơ: 18408

5. Phòng: Chủ tịch nước/ Văn phòng Chủ tịch nước | Mục lục: Tài liệu tổng hợp (Giai đoạn 1997-2006)

Tiêu đề hồ sơ: Báo cáo của Chủ tịch nước, Phó Chủ tịch nước, Văn phòng Chủ tịch nước về tình hình giải quyết hậu quả *chất độc hóa học* của Mỹ ở Việt Nam năm 1998.- 1999

Số hồ sơ: 540

6. Phòng: Chủ tịch nước/ Văn phòng Chủ tịch nước | Mục lục: Tài liệu tổng hợp (Giai đoạn 1997-2006)

Tiêu đề hồ sơ: Hồ sơ v/v hoạt động, nghiên cứu hợp tác trong việc khắc phục hậu quả *chất độc hóa học* dioxin do Mỹ sử dụng ở Việt Nam năm 2001.

Số hồ sơ: 541

7. Phòng: Chủ tịch nước/ Văn phòng Chủ tịch nước | Mục lục: Tài liệu tổng hợp (Giai đoạn 1997-2006)

Tiêu đề hồ sơ: Công văn, báo cáo các hoạt động nghiên cứu ủng hộ v/v khắc phục hậu quả *chất độc hóa học* dioxin do Mỹ sử dụng ở Việt Nam năm 2002.

Số hồ sơ: 542

8. Phòng: Chủ tịch nước/ Văn phòng Chủ tịch nước | Mục lục: Tài liệu tổng hợp (Giai đoạn 1997-2006)

Tiêu đề hồ sơ: Công văn, báo cáo các hoạt động nghiên cứu ủng hộ v/v khắc phục hậu quả *chất độc hóa học* dioxin do Mỹ sử dụng ở Việt Nam năm 2003.
Số hồ sơ: 543

9. Phòng: Chủ tịch nước/ Văn phòng Chủ tịch nước | Mục lục: Tài liệu tổng hợp (Giai đoạn 1997-2006)

Tiêu đề hồ sơ: Công văn, báo cáo các hoạt động nghiên cứu ủng hộ v/v khắc phục hậu quả *chất độc hóa học* dioxin do Mỹ sử dụng ở Việt Nam năm 2004.
Số hồ sơ: 544

10. Phòng: Văn phòng Chính phủ | Mục lục: Mục lục 2 (Giai đoạn 1957 - 1995)

Tiêu đề hồ sơ: Hồ sơ về đưa trẻ em bị dị chứng *chất độc hóa học* sang CHLB Đức điều trị năm 1992.
Số hồ sơ: 8953

11. Phòng: Văn phòng Chính phủ | Mục lục: Mục lục 2 (Giai đoạn 1957 - 1995)

Tiêu đề hồ sơ: Thông báo của Phó Thủ tướng Nguyễn Khánh về xử lý hậu quả *chất độc hóa học* Mỹ dùng trong chiến tranh Việt Nam năm 1994.
Số hồ sơ: 9250

12. Phòng: Văn phòng Chính phủ | Mục lục: Mục lục 4 (Giai đoạn 1960-2002)

Tiêu đề hồ sơ: Báo cáo của VPCP về tình hình hậu quả của *chất độc hóa học* màu da cam và các biện pháp khắc phục năm 1997.
Số hồ sơ: 2006

13. Phòng: Văn phòng Chính phủ | Mục lục: Mục lục 4 (Giai đoạn 1960-2002)

Tiêu đề hồ sơ: Hồ sơ v/v góp ý dự thảo Quyết định của Thủ tướng Chính phủ về thành lập Quỹ Bảo trợ những người bị hậu quả *chất độc hóa học* do chiến tranh, phân công nhiệm vụ trong công tác phòng chống ma túy năm 1997.
Số hồ sơ: 2197

14. Phòng: Văn phòng Chính phủ | Mục lục: Mục lục 4 (Giai đoạn 1960-2002)

Tiêu đề hồ sơ: Hồ sơ v/v xử lý *chất độc hóa học* còn tồn lưu tại tỉnh Gia Lai năm 1998.
Số hồ sơ: 2290

English translation (abridged)**1. Fonds: National Assembly and Its Agencies**

Finding aid: Inventory 1 (1945–1992)

File: Records of the Fourth Session of the Second National Assembly, 17–26 April 1962. Volume 6 includes statements by National Assembly deputies on marriage and family, economic and financial management, science and technology in agriculture, cultural heritage management, and the use of toxic chemicals in South Vietnam.

File No.: 737

2. Fonds: National Assembly and Its Agencies

Finding aid: Tenth National Assembly (1997–2002)

File: Official correspondence of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment concerning the 1998 research programme for assessing the consequences of toxic chemicals.

File No.: 1824

3. Fonds: Prime Minister's Office

Finding aid: Inventory 3 (1954–1985)

File: Records concerning measures taken in response to the use of toxic chemicals by the United States in Vietnam, 1965.

File No.: 18045

4. Fonds: Prime Minister's Office

Finding aid: Inventory 3 (1954–1985)

File: Records of an investigation into the consequences of toxic chemicals in Quang Tri, 1973.

File No.: 18408

5. Fonds: President/Office of the President

Finding aid: General Records (1997–2006)

File: Reports of the President, Vice President and Office of the President concerning responses to the consequences of toxic chemicals used by the United States in Vietnam, 1998–1999.

File No.: 540

6. Fonds: President/Office of the President

Finding aid: General Records (1997–2006)

File: Records on activities and research cooperation concerning remediation of the consequences of dioxin-related toxic chemicals used by the United States in Vietnam, 2001.

File No.: 541

7. Fonds: President/Office of the President

Finding aid: General Records (1997–2006)

File: Correspondence and reports on research and support activities concerning remediation of the consequences of dioxin-related toxic chemicals used by the United States in Vietnam, 2002.

File No.: 542

8. Fonds: President/Office of the President

Finding aid: General Records (1997–2006)

File: Correspondence and reports on research and support activities concerning remediation of the consequences of dioxin-related toxic chemicals used by the United States in Vietnam, 2003.

File No.: 543

9. Fonds: President/Office of the President

Finding aid: General Records (1997–2006)

File: Correspondence and reports on research and support activities concerning remediation of the consequences of dioxin-related toxic chemicals used by the United States in Vietnam, 2004.

File No.: 544

10. Fonds: Government Office

Finding aid: Inventory 2 (1957–1995)

File: Records concerning the transfer of children suffering from the effects of toxic chemicals to the Federal Republic of Germany for medical treatment, 1992.

File No.: 8953

11. Fonds: Government Office

Finding aid: Inventory 2 (1957–1995)

File: Notice by Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh concerning measures to address the consequences of toxic chemicals used by the United States during the Vietnam War, 1994.

File No.: 9250

12. Fonds: Government Office

Finding aid: Inventory 4 (1960–2002)

File: Government Office report on the consequences of Agent Orange/toxic chemicals and measures for remediation, 1997.

File No.: 2006

13. Fonds: Government Office

Finding aid: Inventory 4 (1960–2002)

File: Records concerning comments on a draft Prime Ministerial Decision to establish a support fund for people affected by wartime toxic chemicals, together with related administrative matters, 1997.

File No.: 2197

14. Fonds: Government Office

Finding aid: Inventory 4 (1960–2002)

File: Records concerning the treatment of residual toxic chemicals in Gia Lai Province, 1998.

File No.: 2290

Figure 2. A statistical table on the use of chemical agents during the war, Fonds A, File A-01

Vietnamese original – reproduced archival excerpt

Ngày, tháng	Địa điểm		Số lần rải và loại chất độc	Diện tích	Thiệt hại về:		BI CHU
	Tỉnh	Đp, thôn, xã, quận			Người chết	Nhiễm độc	
13/1/1963	Bétre	4 xã thuộc quận Tráo- giang, 1 xã thuộc quận Hàm-Rông.	1 lần				
Từ 20-24/1	"	11 xã quận Giông- trôm	1 lần				
20/1-1/2/1963	Mỹ-tho	2 ấp xã Thới-sơn, quận Châu thành.	4 lần		200ng		
27, 28/2-1/3	Bétre	3 xã quận Giông-trôm	3 lần có màu vàng và đen				
2/3/1963	"	6 xã thuộc quận Giông- trôm.	1 lần		1.700ng		
4/3/1963	"	3 xã quận Giông-trôm	1 lần, có màu vàng.		1.6.000ng		
1/7 + 2/63	"	Các xã ở quận Giông- trôm.			2.188ng		
12/2/1963	"	một số xã thuộc quận: Ba-tri và quận Hàm- long, Trục-giang.	1 lần		2.238ng		
18/2/1963	Sóc-trăng	Tại chợ xã Vĩnh-phú xã Phước-long.	loại thuốc độc giống như kẹo.				
7/3/1963	Mỹ-tho	xã Long-hưng, quận Châu thành			7 người		

Ngày, tháng	Địa điểm		Số lần rải và loại chất độc	Diện tích	Thiệt hại về:		BI CHU
	Tỉnh	Đp, thôn, xã, quận			Người chết	Nhiễm độc	
12/5/1963	Gia- định	xã Phú-mỹ Hưng, Tân- an Hội, Tân-thành- Đông.	trộn thuốc c vào muối, cỏ, thức ăn.		4	13 người	
15/3/1963	"	Tân-thành-Đông	trộn vào thức ăn.		1	2	
7/3/1963	Tây-ninh	một số vùng	bỏ vào thức ăn.		1	2	
22/3/1963	"	xã Ninh-diễn	trộn vào bánh mì và gạo		3		
1/5 - 3/63	Trà-vinh	3 xã quận Duyên-hải và xã Long-Vĩnh, Trưng-long.	bỏ vào nước uống (2 lần)		1.242ng		
13/3/1963	Mỹ-tho	Xã Phú-thành Đông, quận Hòa-dông	thuốc độc		4		
15/3 và 26/3	An- giang	xã Trung-thu	2 lần		3		
26/3/63	Bình- duong	Chợ Bón-súc	bỏ thuốc độc vào.		1		
26/3/1963	Long- an	xã Bình-phong-Thạch, quận Thủ-thủ, xã Mỹ- hạnh, quận Đức-hòa			55		

04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13/3 - 1/4/63	Tây-ninh: Các xã quận Bến-cầu		Bộ thuốc độc: rộng 6km: 12		257mg		
8/4/1963	Mỹ-tho: ấp Phú-lợi xã Phú-kết.		vào thức ăn: dài 1km				
9/4/1963	" : Xã Hậu-mỹ, quận Cái-bè:						
15/4/1963	" : Xã Phú-thanh Đông, quận Hòa-dông.				1		
9/4/1963	Bến-tre : 2 ấp Phú-lợi, Phú-ninh thuộc mậu đen xã Phú-đức, quận Trục-giang.				1	4	
17/4/1963	Kiến-tường : xã Tân-nhơn, quận Tuyên-nhơn.		trộn thuốc độc vào lúa				
21/4/1963	" : Xã Tân-lập						
12 đến 20/4/63	Bến-tre : 12 xã quận Giồng-trôm: 7 lần rải Ham-long, Mỏ-cây, Trục-giang.		màu trắng đục		1	11	
7/4/1963	Gia-dinh : Xã Bình-trị-Đông		rải kẹo có chất độc.				
3/4/1963	Phước-thành : 2 xã An-lĩnh, Tam-lập (Sông-bé)						
6/4/1963 và 20/1/1963	Bình-dương : Chợ Chánh-lực, xã Chanh-phu-Hòa và xã Phú-an.		rải thuốc độc và nước ăn.		1	20	
12/4/1963	Mỹ-tho: Xã Tân-mỹ-chánh (chợ gạo)		bộ thuốc độc vào 2 thùng nước mắm.				

English translation (abridged)

Column headings:

Date | Location (province; hamlet/village/commune/district) | Number of dispersal events and type of toxic agent | Area | Human casualties: deaths; poisoning cases | Notes

Selected entries:

13 January 1963 – Ben Tre: Four communes in Truc Giang District and one commune in Ham Long District; one recorded application.

20–24 January 1963 – Ben Tre: Eleven communes in Giong Trom District; one recorded application.

20 January–1 February 1963 – My Tho: Two hamlets in Thoi Son Commune, Chau Thanh District; four recorded applications; 200 persons recorded as poisoned.

27–28 February–1 March 1963 – Ben Tre: Three communes in Giong Trom District; three applications involving substances described as yellow and black.

2 March 1963 – Ben Tre: Six communes in Giong Trom District; one recorded application; 1,700 persons recorded as poisoned.

12 March 1963 – Gia Dinh: Phu My Hung, Tan An Hoi and Tan Thanh Dong; toxic substances reportedly mixed with salt, rice and food; four deaths and thirteen cases of poisoning recorded.

15 March 1963 – Gia Dinh: Tan Thanh Dong; toxic substance reportedly mixed with food; one death and two cases of poisoning recorded.

7 March 1963 – Tay Ninh: Several localities; toxic substance reportedly placed in food; one death and two cases of poisoning recorded.

22 March 1963 – Tay Ninh: Ninh Dien Commune; toxic substance reportedly mixed with bread and rice; three cases of poisoning recorded.

26 March 1963 – Long An: Binh Phong Thach Commune, Thu Thua District, and My Hanh Commune, Duc Hoa District; fifty-five cases of poisoning recorded.

13 March–1 April 1963 – Tay Ninh: Communes in Ben Cau District; toxic substance reportedly placed in food; twelve deaths and 257 cases of poisoning recorded.

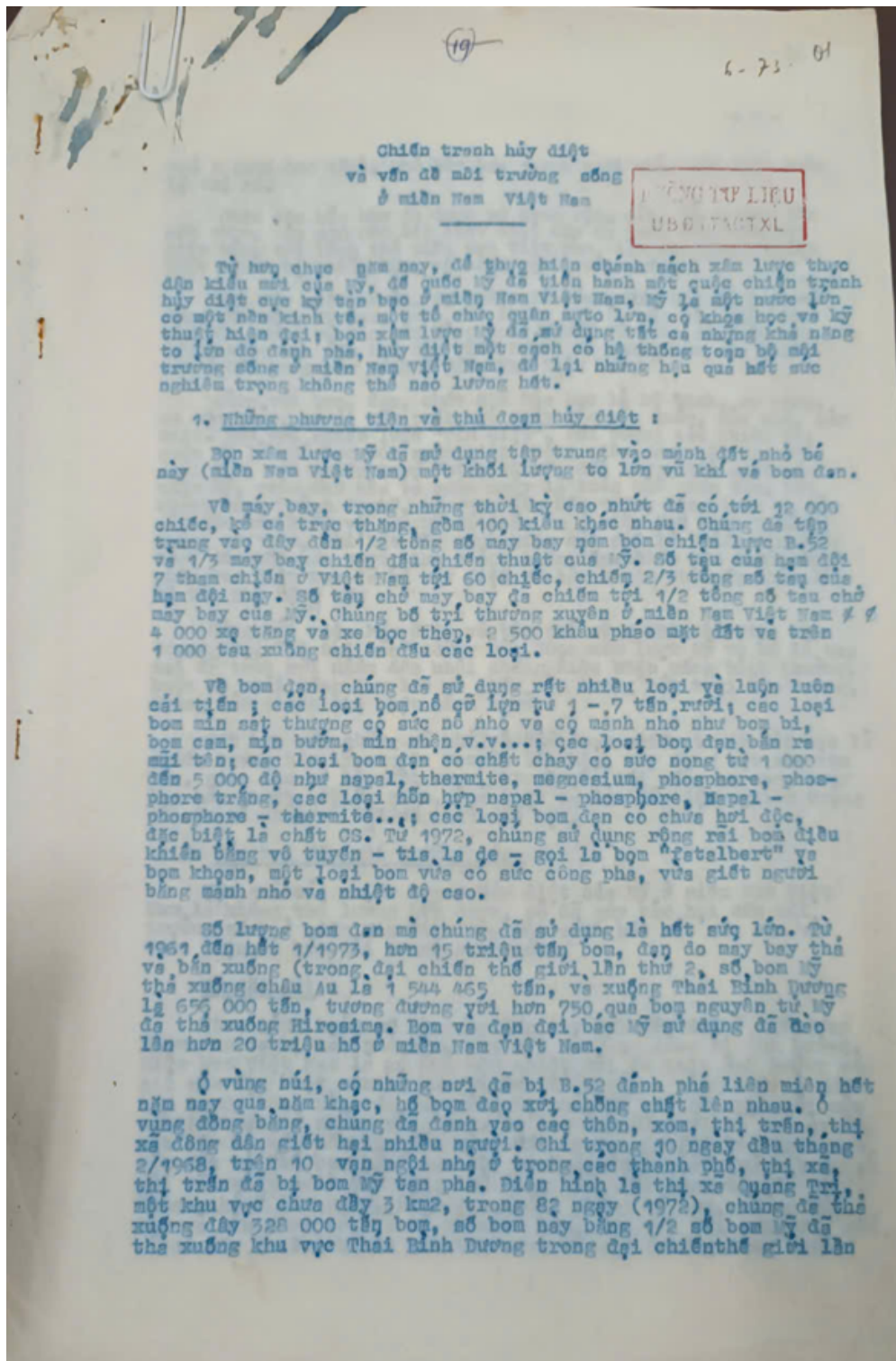
9 April 1963 – Ben Tre: Phu Loi and Phu Ninh hamlets, Phu Duc Commune, Truc Giang District; a black-coloured substance is recorded; one death and four cases of poisoning.

17 April 1963 – Kien Tuong: Tan Nhon Commune, Tuyen Nhon District; toxic substance reportedly mixed with rice.

[Additional entries omitted]

Figure 3. Records concerning environmental issues during the war, Fonds A, File A-02

Vietnamese original – reproduced archival excerpt



thứ 2 (656 000 tấn), phá hủy hơn 1 vạn ngôi nhà, hủy diệt toàn bộ thị xã.

Chất độc hóa học đã được sử dụng rộng rãi. Từ 8/1961 đến hết 1972, 75 500 000 lít chất diệt cây đã tưới đều trên một diện tích 1/3 lãnh thổ miền Nam Việt Nam, làm cho gần 2 triệu lượt người bị nhiễm độc, có hàng vạn người chết.

Hại độc giết người, đặc biệt là chất CS, đã được sử dụng với nồng độ cao, đánh vào những nơi tập núp của nhân dân gây oán, nhưng vụ tàn sát hàng loạt. Từ 1963 đến hết năm 1972, hàng vạn tấn hạt độc giết người đã phun, bơm vào nhiều nơi ở hầu khắp các tỉnh ở miền Nam Việt Nam.

Cùng với bom, đạn, chất độc hóa học là bộ binh, xe tăng, xe bọc thép, xe di đất phốt, hợp ngay đến căn quết, tàn phá, hủy diệt. Nếu với chiến lược "tìm diệt", đối tượng tác chiến của quân Mỹ là chủ lực của quân, giải phóng miền Nam Việt Nam thì trái lại, với chiến lược "bình định", đối tượng tác chiến của quân Mỹ, quân chủ hầu và quân nguy là toàn thể nhân dân. Với chính sách "bình định", từ 1965 đến hết 1972, hàng triệu vụ tàn sát dân mau kiêu và Sơn Mỹ đã diễn ra ở miền Nam Việt Nam. Từ tháng 10/1968, khi bắt đầu thực hiện đại gọi là "bình định cấp tốc" đến hết năm 1972, hơn 3 000 thôn, ấp chiếm 26% thôn, ấp ở miền Nam Việt Nam đã bị hủy diệt và hơn 6 000 thôn ấp khác đã bị tàn phá nặng nề.

Cùng với việc hủy diệt và tàn phá nông thôn là việc tập trung dân, "độ thị hoa" cưỡng bức, bọn xâm lược Mỹ và bè lũ tay sai đã tách rời dân khỏi ruộng, điều kiện sống bình thường, buộc họ phải sống lay lắt và chết mòn trong các trại tập trung, trong các thành thị chật ních người.

Kết hợp với những vũ khí và thủ đoạn chiến tranh tàn bạo là chiến tranh tâm lý, tuyên truyền lừa bịp, xây dựng một nền văn hóa, giáo dục nô lệ, đối trị, truyền bá lối sống sa đọa, truy lạc hóa thành, thiếu niên, phá hoại và làm đảo lộn nghiêm trọng cơ cấu tổ chức và đời sống của xã hội.

B. Tác hại đến môi trường sống :

Hậu quả của chiến tranh hủy diệt của Mỹ ở miền Nam Việt Nam là không thể lường hết được, nó đã gây tác hại đến môi trường sống ở miền Nam Việt Nam một cách hết sức sâu sắc và toàn diện và kéo dài trong nhiều năm.

Về đất đai :

Theo tính toán sơ bộ, cho đến nay 2/3 đất đai ở miền Nam Việt Nam đã bị tàn phá nặng nề; 1/3 còn lại cũng bị ảnh hưởng. Miền Nam Việt Nam là xứ khí hậu nhiệt đới ẩm chịu ảnh hưởng của gió mùa đặc biệt nên có mưa nhiều (từ 1 500 - 3 000 mm) và mưa tập trung theo mùa, do cây rừng bị phá, đã gây nên nạn sạt lở nghiêm trọng ở những vùng cao. Do bom đạn đạo rơi và xe cày ủi, mặt đất bị mất hết lớp đất màu, đất chừa, mặt đất lộ trên mặt, mặt đất bị "hố bom hoa" cao độ, bị "mảnh bom hoa" (ganh bom đạn rơi rải khắp nơi) dày đặc; 80% diện tích đất canh tác đã bị "hoang hóa" lâu ngày, hiện nay ngoài những hố bom, những bom, đạn và mìn chưa nổ, và vô số mảnh bom, đạn rơi rải nơi nơi, chỉ có cỏ năn (*heleocharis plantaginea*) và sậy (*phragmites karka*)

English translation (abridged)**Destructive Warfare and the Living Environment in South Vietnam****I. Means and Methods of Destruction**

The document describes the large-scale use of military means that affected the natural and human environment in South Vietnam. It refers to repeated aerial attacks, including the use of high-explosive and incendiary weapons, phosphorus and napalm, as well as toxic chemicals. According to the document, these activities caused extensive destruction of settlements, houses, agricultural land and other components of the living environment.

The text also discusses attacks on rural areas and agricultural production. It describes damage to villages and cultivated areas and refers to the displacement of populations resulting from the destruction of settlements and livelihoods.

II. Effects on the Living Environment**1. Destruction of the Landscape**

The document states that prolonged warfare substantially altered landscapes and damaged forests and vegetation in many areas. Particular attention is given to the use of toxic chemicals and herbicides against crops and forest vegetation.

It describes the destruction or degradation of different forms of vegetation, including forests, mangrove areas and other plant communities, and presents these changes as having longer-term implications for the living environment.

[Additional descriptive and quantitative details omitted.]

Figure 4. Statistical table on wartime forest damage, Fonds A, File A-03
Vietnamese original – reproduced archival excerpt

MỤC LỤC VĂN BẢN

01

DIỆN TÍCH, TRƯ LƯỢNG CỦA RỪNG BỊ TÀN PHÁ TRONG CHIẾN TRANH

TH 1968 - 1975
(Tài liệu tính toán sơ bộ)

Đơn vị: 1 triệu ha
1 triệu m³

Diện tích và trữ lượng	Theo tài liệu không kiểm kê 1968-1969	Tài liệu kiểm kê tra 1975	Diện tích bị hao hụt	%	Tổng trữ lượng gỗ bị thiệt hại	Chiều cao
RỪNG	1.000	1.000	1.000			
Công	7.477	5.400	2.077	27,7	311,0	Trữ lượng cây rừng
Trong đó						kể từ 10cm chiều cao
- Rừng gỗ tre nứa	7.077	5.160	1.917	27,2	287,0	trong đó
- Rừng tràm	160	80	80	50,0	8,0	chiều cao
- Rừng được	240	160	80	33,3	16,0	được

Rừng gỗ và tre nứa
(không kể lùm, bụi)

Ngày 3 tháng 3 năm 1977

English translation (abridged):

Forest Area and Growing Stock Destroyed during the War, 1968–1975

(Preliminary calculations)

Units: 1 million hectares; 1 million m³

Forest category	Based on U.S. aerial photographs (1968–1969)	Data from the 1975 Survey	Forest Area Lost	Loss (%)	Total Growing Stock Lost
Total	7.477	5.400	2.077	27.7	311.0
Timber and bamboo forests	7.077	5.160	1.917	27.2	287.0
Melaleuca forests	160	80	80	50.0	8.0
<i>Rhizophora</i> (Mangrove) forests	240	160	80	37.0	16.0
<i>Note in the original: Timber and Bamboo Forests (excluding scrub and shrub vegetation)</i> <i>Dated 3 March 1977.</i>					

Figure 5. A survey form on the consequences of toxic chemicals, Fonds B, File B-01

Vietnamese original – reproduced archival excerpt

02

Tỉnh, Thành phố HO CHI MINH
 Huyện, Quận TP. LONG BIEN
 Xã, Phường PHU THUAN
 Phiếu điều tra số 02 (của xã)

**PHIẾU ĐIỀU TRA NGƯỜI BỊ HẬU QUẢ
 CHẤT ĐỘC HOÁ HỌC DO MỸ SỬ DỤNG
 TRONG CHIẾN TRANH VIỆT NAM**

1. Họ và tên (viết chữ in)
 2. Giới tính: 2.1. Nam ☐ 2.2. Nữ ☒
 3. Năm sinh
 4. Nơi sinh
 5. Đối tượng: 5.1. Lực lượng vũ trang: ☐ 5.2. Cán bộ dân chính Đảng: ☐
 5.3. Thanh niên xung phong: ☐ 5.4. Dân công hỏa tuyến: ☐
 5.5. Dân thường: ☒ 5.6. Đối tượng khác: ☐
 6. Thuộc cơ quan, đơn vị (Từ 1961 đến 1975) nếu có
 7. Đã chiến đấu, công tác, sinh sống ở các vùng bị rải chất độc hoá học trong chiến tranh từ Nam vĩ tuyến 17 trở vào (ghi rõ xã, huyện, tỉnh)
 - 7.1. Từ tháng 8/1961 đến tháng 4/1975
 - 7.2. Từ tháng 5/1975 đến nay
 8. Hiện nay đã chết hay còn sống: 8.1. Đã chết ☐ 8.2. Còn sống ☒
 (Nếu đã chết thì bỏ không điều tra từ câu 9 đến câu 13)
 9. Nghề nghiệp hiện nay Đưa lợn
 10. Khả năng lao động: (chỉ tính những người từ đủ 15 tuổi trở lên)
 10.1. Không: ☐ 10.2. Có: ☒
 11. Mức sống gia đình thuộc diện:
 11.1. Đói: ☐ 11.2. Nghèo: ☒ 11.3. Trung bình trở lên: ☐
 12. Tình hình sức khỏe, bệnh tật:
 12.1. Bệnh ngoài da: ☐ Nặng: ☐ Nhẹ: ☐
 12.2. Liệt toàn thân: ☐
 12.3. Liệt một phần: ☐
 12.4. Ung thư các loại: ☐ Ghi cụ thể dạng ung thư
 12.5. Bệnh thần kinh: ☐ Nặng: ☐ Nhẹ: ☐
 12.6. Bệnh khác: ☐ Ghi cụ thể
 13. Trợ cấp đang hưởng:
 - 13.1. Thương bệnh binh: ☐ 13.2. Hưu trí, mất sức: ☐
 - 13.3. Trợ cấp 167: ☐ 13.4. Trợ cấp khác: ☐ Ghi cụ thể
 14. Vô sinh: ☐
 15. Số lần sảy thai, chửa trứng của vợ (hoặc bản thân):
 16. Số lần thai chết lưu của vợ (hoặc bản thân):
 17. Số lần sinh con của vợ (hoặc bản thân): 12
 17.1. Số con bình thường 06
 17.2. Số con dị dạng, dị tật 06
 Trong đó: 17.2.1 Số con dị dạng, dị tật đã chết 04 linh chết
 17.2.2 Số con dị dạng, dị tật còn sống 02
 18. Số cháu ruột nội, ngoại dị dạng, dị tật còn sống: Không: ☒ Có: ☐ ghi số cháu: (Nếu có, phần thông tin của từng cháu được ghi vào mặt sau tờ phiếu khác rồi đính kèm vào sau tờ phiếu này, điều tra viên gạch bỏ chữ con và ghi thêm chữ cháu lên trên).

English translation (abridged)

Survey Form for Persons Affected by Toxic Chemicals Used by the United States during the Vietnam War

Administrative information: Province/City; District; Commune/Ward; Survey Form No.

1. Full name: [redacted]

2. Sex: Male / Female

3. Year of birth

4. Place of birth

5. Category/status:

Armed forces; civilian/Party cadre; Youth Volunteer Force; frontline civilian laborer; civilian; other.

6. Agency or unit affiliation (1961–1975), if applicable

7. Military service, work or residence in areas where toxic chemicals were dispersed during the war from August 1961 onward:

7.1. From August 1961 to 1975: unit/place, district, province.

7.2. From 1975 to the present: place of residence/work.

8. Current status: Deceased / Living

(If deceased, Questions 9–13 need not be completed.)

9. Current occupation

10. Capacity for work: Unable to work / Able to work

11. Household living standard: Poor household / Low-income household / Average or above

12. Health and disability status:

Skin disease; total paralysis; partial paralysis; cancers; neurological disorders; other diseases; severity and specific condition where applicable.

13. Assistance currently received:

War-invalid allowance; retirement or loss-of-working-capacity benefit; other forms of social assistance.

14. Infertility

15. Number of miscarriages or molar pregnancies

16. Number of stillbirths

17. Number of children born: children without recorded abnormalities; children with deformities or disabilities, including whether deceased or living.

18. Other family information *concerning deformities or disabilities: [personal details not reproduced]*

NHỮNG THÔNG TIN VỀ CON DỊ DẠNG, DỊ TẬT CÒN SỐNG
(Chỉ ghi những con sinh ra sau khi đối tượng hoạt động, cư trú ở vùng rải CDHH từ tháng 8/1961 đến nay còn sống)

Số TT	Nội dung điều tra	Con dị dạng dị tật thứ nhất	Con dị dạng dị tật thứ hai	Con dị dạng dị tật thứ ba	Con dị dạng dị tật thứ tư
A	B	1	2	3	4
1	1. Họ và tên				
2	2. Năm sinh				
3	3. Giới tính: 3.1. Nam 3.2. Nữ	3.1 ☐ 3.2 ☒	3.1 ☐ 3.2 ☐	3.1 ☐ 3.2 ☐	3.1 ☐ 3.2 ☐
4	4. Dạng bệnh tật: 4.1. Liệt: 4.1.1. Liệt toàn phần 4.1.2. Liệt một phần 4.2. Mù: 4.2.1. Mù hai mắt 4.2.2. Mù một mắt 4.3. Câm điếc: 4.3.1. Cả câm và điếc 4.3.2. Câm 4.3.3. Điếc 4.4. Tâm thần: 4.4.1. Tâm thần 4.4.2. Thiếu năng trí tuệ 4.5. Bệnh máu 4.6. Bệnh da 4.7. Dị dạng, dị tật 4.8. Khác (Ghi cụ thể)	4.1.1 ☒ 4.1.2 ☐ 4.2.1 ☐ 4.2.2 ☐ 4.3.1 ☐ 4.3.2 ☐ 4.3.3 ☐ 4.4.1 ☐ 4.4.2 ☐ 4.5 ☐ 4.6 ☐ 4.7 ☐ 4.8 ☐	4.1.1 ☐ 4.1.2 ☐ 4.2.1 ☐ 4.2.2 ☐ 4.3.1 ☐ 4.3.2 ☐ 4.3.3 ☐ 4.4.1 ☐ 4.4.2 ☐ 4.5 ☐ 4.6 ☐ 4.7 ☐ 4.8 ☐	4.1.1 ☐ 4.1.2 ☐ 4.2.1 ☐ 4.2.2 ☐ 4.3.1 ☐ 4.3.2 ☐ 4.3.3 ☐ 4.4.1 ☐ 4.4.2 ☐ 4.5 ☐ 4.6 ☐ 4.7 ☐ 4.8 ☐	4.1.1 ☐ 4.1.2 ☐ 4.2.1 ☐ 4.2.2 ☐ 4.3.1 ☐ 4.3.2 ☐ 4.3.3 ☐ 4.4.1 ☐ 4.4.2 ☐ 4.5 ☐ 4.6 ☐ 4.7 ☐ 4.8 ☐
5	5. Khả năng sinh hoạt: 5.1. Không tự phục vụ 5.2. Tự phục vụ	5.1 ☒ 5.2 ☐	5.1 ☐ 5.2 ☐	5.1 ☐ 5.2 ☐	5.1 ☐ 5.2 ☐
6	6. Khả năng lao động: 6.1. Không 6.2. Có (Chỉ tính người trong độ tuổi lao động)	6.1 ☒ 6.2 ☐	6.1 ☐ 6.2 ☐	6.1 ☐ 6.2 ☐	6.1 ☐ 6.2 ☐
7	7. Nơi ở hiện nay: 7.1. Tại gia đình 7.2. Nuôi dưỡng tập trung	7.1 ☒ 7.2 ☐	7.1 ☐ 7.2 ☐	7.1 ☐ 7.2 ☐	7.1 ☐ 7.2 ☐
8	8. Trợ cấp đang hưởng: 8.1. Không 8.2. Có Số tiền / tháng	8.1 ☒ 8.2 ☐	8.1 ☐ 8.2 ☐	8.1 ☐ 8.2 ☐	8.1 ☐ 8.2 ☐

Điều tra viên
(Ký ghi rõ họ tên)

Ngày tháng năm 1999
TM UBND xã (phường)
(Ký, đóng dấu)
PHÓ CHỦ TỊCH
Nguyễn Văn Minh

Information on Living Children with Deformities or Disabilities

To be completed for children born after the respondent worked or lived in areas where toxic chemicals were dispersed from August 1961 onward and who were still living at the time of the survey.

For each child, the form records:

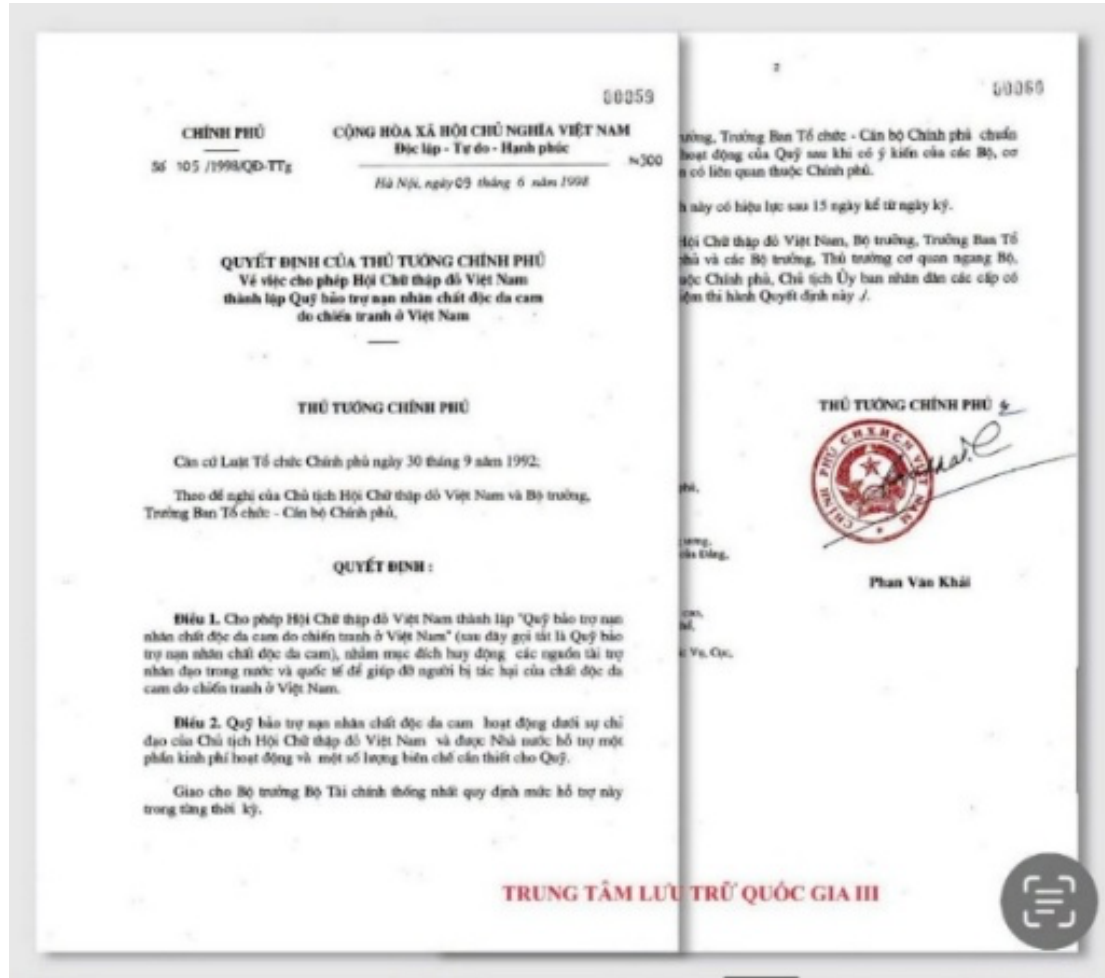
Name; year of birth; sex; type of disability or medical condition, including total or partial paralysis, blindness, deafness or muteness, intellectual disability, blood disorders, skin disease, and other deformities or disabilities.

It also records ability to perform daily activities; capacity for work; current living arrangement (with family or in institutional care); and whether social assistance is received, including the amount per month.

Personal names and individual responses have been redacted.

Figure 6. National Archives Center III. Government Office Fonds, File 1583. Decision No. 105/1998/QĐ-TTg dated June 9, 1998, authorizing the Vietnam Red Cross Society to establish the Fund for the Support of Victims of Agent Orange from the War in Vietnam

Vietnamese original – reproduced archival excerpt



English translation (abridged)**GOVERNMENT**

No. 105/1998/QĐ-TTg

Hanoi, 9 June 1998

DECISION OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Authorizing the Vietnam Red Cross Society to Establish the Fund for the Support of Victims of Agent Orange from the War in Vietnam

THE PRIME MINISTER

Pursuant to the Law on the Organization of the Government dated 30 September 1992;

At the proposal of the President of the Vietnam Red Cross Society and the Minister–Head of the Government Commission for Organization and Personnel;

DECIDES:

Article 1. The Vietnam Red Cross Society is authorized to establish the “Fund for the Support of Victims of Agent Orange from the War in Vietnam” (hereinafter referred to as the Fund). The Fund shall mobilize humanitarian contributions and assistance from organizations and individuals in Vietnam and abroad in order to assist people affected by Agent Orange as a consequence of the war in Vietnam.

Article 2. The Fund shall operate under the direction of the President of the Vietnam Red Cross Society and shall receive State support for part of its operating expenses and for the necessary number of staff positions. The Minister of Finance shall prescribe the level of such support for each period.

Article 3. The Minister–Head of the Government Commission for Organization and Personnel shall approve the Regulations on the organization and operation of the Fund after obtaining the opinions of the relevant ministries, ministerial-level agencies, and government agencies.

Article 4. This Decision shall take effect fifteen days after the date of signing.

Article 5. The President of the Vietnam Red Cross Society; the Minister–Head of the Government Commission for Organization and Personnel; ministers; heads of ministerial-level agencies and government agencies; and chairpersons of the relevant People’s Committees at all levels shall be responsible for implementing this Decision.

PRIME MINISTER

Phan Van Khai