

**SPEECH BY SENIOR GENERAL NGUYEN VAN RINH, PRESIDENT  
OF THE VIETNAM ASSOCIATION FOR VICTIMS OF AGENT  
ORANGE/DIOXIN (VAVA)**

*(Session 2 – Nagasaki Day Rally –August 9)*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

Three days ago, we have just organized a memorial ceremony for the victims of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima, today we are meeting here for the commemoration of the victims of the bombing of Nagasaki. First of all, I would like to pay tribute to the souls of the victims of the atomic bombings on these two cities. I also express my deep sympathy to those who are still suffering the consequences of these two atomic bombings.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

Japan and Vietnam are two countries with many similarities. Having to suffer the same consequences of a war using weapons of mass destruction is an unwanted similarity. Today we are celebrating with you the 76th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, tomorrow we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the first spraying of toxic chemicals in Vietnam (August 10, 1961 - August 10, 2021) which opens the longest and the greatest chemical warfare in human history. During the 10 years from 1961 to 1971, the United States sprayed in South Vietnam with 80 million liters of toxic chemicals, including 50 million liters of Agent Orange and containing 366 kg of dioxin, which is a type of chemical with the greatest toxicity known.

The chemical warfare carried out by the American army has caused very serious consequences for the Vietnamese people: More than 3 million hectares of forests have been destroyed. Thousands of villages have to live with contaminated soil and water. 4.8 million people have been exposed to toxic chemicals. Among these people, hundreds of thousands have died. Those who are still alive must endure every day the pain of serious diseases and deformities. Many women have not enjoyed motherhood; Many newborns died or were deformed. Agent Orange related diseases and deformities have been passed down from generation to generation, so far there have been 4th generation victims and it is not known when this legacy will end.

The American chemical warfare in Vietnam not only caused serious damage to people and the environment in Vietnam, but also affected the health of American soldiers and soldiers from allied countries of the United States and at the same time affected the environment in places where toxic chemicals are stocked before or after being brought into Vietnam, including Okinawa in Japan.

*Dear friends,*

Agent Orange and atomic bombs are weapons of mass destruction. The use of these weapons in war has left heavy and lasting consequences for the peoples of Vietnam and Japan. In the efforts to overcome these consequences, the peoples of our two countries have united and helped each other, and at the same time received precious help from the peoples of the world. Allow me, on behalf of over 3 million Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange, to thank friends in Japan and around the world for actively supporting and assisting the victims of Agent Orange in Vietnam.

I also call on the people of Japan and all countries to continue to help the Vietnamese people overcome the consequences of Agent Orange, in particular the consequences affecting directly 3 million victims of Agent Orange, who are both tormented by disease and have to live in extremely difficult material conditions.

I also call on the peoples of the world to strengthen their solidarity to prevent the research, production, stockpiling and use of weapons of mass destruction, to prevent war and to build a peaceful world, so that there is no more victims of Agent Orange, no more victims of nuclear weapons, no more victims of war.

Thank you !