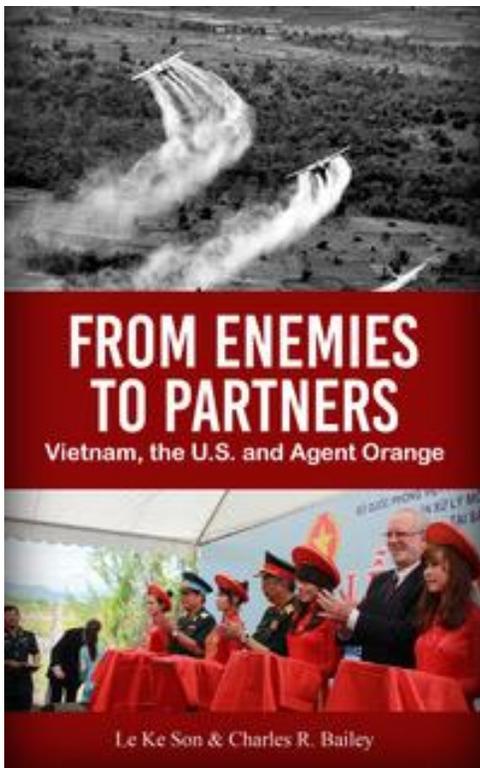


FROM ENEMIES TO PARTNERS

VIETNAM, THE U.S. AND AGENT ORANGE

by Dr. Le Ke Son & Dr. Charles R. Bailey



The impact and tragedy of war do not end with the silencing of guns...

More than four decades after the end of the Vietnam War, the United States and Vietnam are just beginning to address the negative consequences of Agent Orange, the dioxin-contaminated herbicide used during the war. In this groundbreaking book, two leading experts on Agent Orange and its aftermath explore current scientific understandings of the chemical and consider the promising solutions to addressing the consequences of its use.

Authors Le Ke Son and Charles R. Bailey outline the moral reasoning for a fuller American response and present further steps the United States and Vietnam can each take in a joint humanitarian initiative to resolve the legacy of Agent Orange/dioxin in Vietnam. They address the critical issues of whether dioxin pollution still exists in Vietnam, what needs to be done to finish the job of cleanup, how many victims of Agent Orange carry out their lives today, and the impact of Agent Orange on relations between the United States and Vietnam.

The impact and tragedy of war do not end with the silencing of guns. Agent Orange/ dioxin's pernicious effect on the environment and on humans in Vietnam persists to this day, more than forty years after the official end of the war. Citizens of conscience in both the U.S. and Vietnam joined in the U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/dioxin to address this legacy and to truly put the war behind us. It is the right thing to do for Vietnam, for the Vietnamese Agent Orange/dioxin victims, and for a full-fledged and mature relationship between our two countries. This compelling story needs to be told and who could better tell it than two of the chief architects of the work so far, Dr. Charles Bailey and Dr. Le Ke Son.

—Ambassador Ton Nu Thi Ninh
Former Vice Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee,
National Assembly of Vietnam

About the Authors

Le Ke Son is a medical doctor with a Ph.D. in toxicology and led the government of Vietnam's efforts to find an equitable way forward on the Agent Orange legacy with the U.S. government. He first directed the Agent Orange Victims Fund at the Vietnam Red Cross and then moved to become the leader of the Office of the National Steering Committee for the Overcoming of the Consequences of Toxic Chemicals used by USA in the War in Vietnam—known as Committee 33—and concurrently, vice director general of the Vietnam Environmental Administration and Vietnamese co-chair of the United States-Vietnam Joint Advisory Committee.

Charles R. Bailey is a public policy specialist with a Ph.D. in agricultural economics. He was the Ford Foundation representative in Vietnam and headed the foundation's Hanoi office for a decade from 1997 to 2007. He then led the Ford Foundation's initiative on Agent Orange/dioxin from New York before moving the project to the Aspen Institute in 2011. Bailey has worked to mobilize attention and resources in the United States, assess progress on the ground in Vietnam and present independent findings and analysis through public reports, meetings with officials and convening of key stakeholders.

Son and Bailey first crossed paths in December 2006 in Hanoi when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs recommended that the Ford Foundation work with Office of Committee 33. The two have collaborated over the ensuing years to push for a breakthrough on Agent Orange, a campaign that would ensure that Vietnam and the United States cooperate to address the problems left by American use of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. Bailey and Son retired in June 2014 and decided to again join forces—this time to write the story of how the United States and Vietnam finally began to resolve one of the 20th century's iconic environmental and human disasters.

In writing *From Enemies to Partners* Son and Bailey have drawn on their firsthand experiences with Agent Orange and its legacy accumulated over the last two decades. They also interviewed nearly 40 other Americans and Vietnamese to unearth their insights on what has happened and the way ahead. Son's knowledge, credibility and access now enable him to conduct a thorough review of Agent Orange/dioxin issues in Vietnam. Bailey's long engagement with Agent Orange/dioxin and his familiarity with the key players on the U.S. side enable him to explore the U.S. perspective fully.

There are no two people more qualified to speak on this subject than Charles Bailey and Dr. Le Ke Son. Their work has changed lives for the better. It has taken patience, perseverance and cooperation. We can all learn from their example.

**—Christine Todd Whitman
Former Governor of New Jersey
and Administrator of the
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

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