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COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME  
Cinquante-septième session  
Point 13 de l'ordre du jour

DROITS DE L'ENFANT

Lettre datée du 2 avril 2001, adressée au Président de la Commission des droits  
de l'homme par le Représentant permanent du Viet Nam auprès  
de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

D'ordre de mon Gouvernement, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire tenir ci-joint le texte d'un appel conjoint\* sollicitant aide et contributions en faveur des enfants handicapés, et particulièrement des enfants victimes de l'agent orange au Viet Nam, signé par son Excellence Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Vice-Présidente de la République socialiste du Viet Nam, au nom du Fonds national pour les enfants vietnamiens, du Fonds pour les victimes de l'agent orange et de Vietnam Save Disabled Children.

Je vous serais obligé de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte de cet appel en tant que document officiel de la cinquante-septième session de la Commission des droits de l'homme, au titre du point 13 de l'ordre du jour.

L'Ambassadeur  
Représentant permanent

(Signé) : NGUYEN Quy Binh

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\* Reproduit tel quel, dans la langue originale seulement.

Annex

LETTER TO CALL ON CONTRIBUTIONS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN,  
ESPECIALLY CHILD VICTIMS OF AGENT ORANGE IN VIETNAM

*Dear compatriots and friends!*

Children are the family's happiness and the country's future. The Vietnamese family, as any family over the world, wishes to have healthy children who will be cared for and have access to education. Children themselves have a very simple desire of going to school and enjoying entertainment with their peers, as well as a wish to become adults in order to show their thanks to parents and contribute their part to the country's construction.

But a heart-rending fact is that at present there are millions of orphans, disabled and displaced street children. Of these, thousands of children are disabled due to deformities from Agent Orange, mines and bombs after the war. This is an endless pain, because of the fact that the war has ended over 25 years ago. These children are innocent victims, who have to suffer from physical and spiritual pains everyday, every hour and even being disabled for their whole life.

What can we do so that these children can be treated, especially those with Agent Orange deformities? What must we do for their families? These questions are always on our minds.

During the past, the State of Vietnam, the Vietnamese people and foreign friends, as well as NGOs, have set forth many policies and implemented many activities concerning the care and support for these children and their families. But in fact the achievements are still very limited. Therefore, we would like to call upon:

1. Social - Political organizations, economic enterprises, communities, and overseas Vietnamese, including children and their organizations, by appropriate actions and with appropriate capability, to provide material contributions, to take care of, as well as to encourage these disabled children, especially those who are victims of Agent Orange.

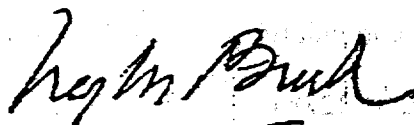
2. International organizations and individuals to assist in programs for caring and rehabilitating the disabled children, to help families of disabled children, to support us in cleaning areas with Agent Orange and to assist us in de-mining unexploded bombs and mines. The support from you and people of good conscience all over the world would help to reduce the pain of the war, in order to put aside the past and look at a peaceful future for coordination and development, as well as protecting children's rights and human rights.

It is our hope that many national and international organizations and individuals will respond and provide appropriate support for the best success of this campaign for disabled children in general and in particular, children of Agent Orange in Vietnam. The disabled children and children suffering from Agent Orange are waiting for your support.

We would like to thank you all.

Hanoi, 22 March 2001

*On behalf of:* National Fund for Vietnamese Children  
Agent Orange Victim Fund  
Vietnam Save Disabled Children



Nguyen Thi Binh  
Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam