

## **U.S. DUMPING OF TOXIC CHEMICALS IN SOUTH KOREA**

Whereas, on May 13, a Phoenix-based TV station KPHO aired an investigation report, based on the testimony of three U.S. veterans, regarding a secret burial of hundreds of 55-gallon toxic chemical drums, including Agent Orange, at a U.S. military base, Camp Carroll, South Korea in 1978;

Whereas, ever since this news broke out, Korean media have reported similar stories of reckless U.S. dumping of various toxic chemicals at other U.S. military bases as well as onto road sides and into rivers in South Korea;

Whereas, it is now known that the U.S. military sprayed Agent Orange and other toxic chemicals in the DMZ and the nearby Civilian Control Zone below the DMZ from 1955 to early 1970s, in violation of the international customary law prohibiting the use of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases; and

Whereas, tens of thousands of U.S. and South Korean veterans, as well as South Korean civilians, have lost their lives or are currently sick due to their exposure to the Agent Orange in South Korea;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace (VFP), meeting at its national convention in Portland, Oregon, August 6, 2011

1. Applauds the courageous declarations of conscience on the Agent Orange scandal by Stephen House and other U.S. veterans who had been directly involved in the secret burial of the Agent Orange drums in South Korea, and calls upon other veterans who have further information on this issue to come forward with their accounts;
2. Calls upon the Congress to hold its own independent and full investigation and hearing on this dangerous scandal, and provide a free Agent Orange medical check-up to all U.S. veterans who served in South Korea in the past;
3. Calls upon the Obama administration to disclose all information and documents regarding the past use and abuse of toxic chemicals in South Korea, conduct a full investigation into the possible burial of toxic chemicals at all U.S. military bases in South Korea, clean up the polluted land, offer a full apology and remedy, including just compensation, to all the victims—both U.S. and Korean veterans as well as South Korean civilians—of the reckless use or dumping of toxic chemicals in South Korea by the U.S. military; and
4. Urges all VFP members and local chapters, as an expression of our concern on this issue, to send a copy of this resolution to our Representatives and Senators in Congress.

Approved at the 2011 VFP National Convention