

THE AMERICAN CRIME OF GENOCIDE IN SOUTH VIET NAM

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of the war crimes of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen*

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Progressive humanity vigorously condemns the American war of aggression in Vietnam which is, in its essence, a neo-colonialist war of aggression, of a cruelty unprecedented in history. The Bertrand Russell War Crimes Tribunal, in its first session held in Stockholm last May, declared the US government guilty of the crime of aggression, of crimes against peace and against the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people.

During this American war of aggression, monstrous crimes have been committed. At the same time as the crime of aggression "supreme crime embracing all the others", the United States has committed war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the grâvest manifestation of these — that of *genocide*, in contempt of moral principles and international laws recognized by civilised humanity.

In this exposé, we denounce before international public opinion those acts of genocide which the Americans have committed and are now committing in South Vietnam.

FIRST PART

US GENOCIDE WAGED AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM BECOMES MORE SERIOUS EVERY DAY WITH THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE AMERICAN WAR OF AGGRESSION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

US imperialism at the head of the imperialist camp, and dreaming of world hegemony in applying its global strategy, threatens and represses by force of arms people struggling for peace, national independence, liberty and democracy. Coldly cruel, brutal and Machiavellian in their methods, the U.S. imperialists do not shrink from any atrocity in their desire to suppress those who will not submit to their domination.

During their intervention in the internal affairs of other peoples and their aggression, they usually operate under the cloak of "anticommunism". It has been proven, however, that their pretended "anti-communist" campaigns are basically nothing but a campaign directed against the fundamental rights to live in peace and independence, their right to self-determination, to free choice of political and social systems which accord with their own aspirations.

Their policy of racial discrimination and repression is also well known. We all remember the extermination of the "Red Skins", the segregation of Negroes, the sanguinary repression of which the latter are victims in the USA. It was Washington that unleashed the first atomic bombs against an Asiatic people. The Christian Science Monitor of January 20, 1967, reported that in many countries it is believed that: "the Americans would kill less in Vietnam if they were dealing with Whites".

The American will to aggression against Vietnam dates back a long time, immediately after World War II. This criminal intention was realised through a long process in flagrant violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam. Immediately after the latter was signed, Washington expelled the French colonialists and directly intervened in the internal affairs of Vietnam. The aim of the American imperialists was to transform our country into a neo-colony and military base for the United States itself. A puppet government was installed in Saigon, serving them as a docile instrument for their domination and facilitating the illegal introduction of US arms and military personnel into South Vietnam, with a view to preparing a new outbreak of war.

Everything was done to help Saigon set up a bloodthirsty dictatorship. The army, police and security services, prisons and concentration camps, all worked at a high tempo to repress any strivings towards independence, liberty, democracy and peace. John F. Dulles declared on November 11, 1954 before the American Senate that South Vietnam "must be

served by a government strongly supported by police and security forces efficient enough to repress rebellion". He added on December 6 of the same year: "The United States aim politically at maintaining and reinforcing the Ngo Dinh Diem administration, militarily at creating a Vietnamese army better trained and better equipped...".

Lansdale, a trusted agent of the CIA and several of his disciples were appointed as advisers to Diem to organise the forces of repression. Using the clique of Diemist puppets as their chosen instrument, the American imperialists started savagely to massacre Vietnamese patriots and former members of the resistance movement against the French colonialists, starting up sanguinary campaigns of "denunciation and repression of communists"; starting to apply the policy of concentrating the population, cynically and brutally trampling under foot the most elementary rights of human beings. American acts of genocide started from this period. A unilateral war waged for years against the people of South Vietnam was aimed at stifling the peaceful political struggle of the masses for the correct application of the Geneva Agreements.

But the people of South Vietnam, an integral part of an unconquerable people with traditions of thousands of years of struggle against foreign invaders, a people which with the rest of the country victoriously carried out the August Revolution and which was always in the front line against French colonialist aggression in the past, refused to allow itself to be enslaved.

The cruel and bloodthirsty methods of repression employed by the US Diemists were met head on by the unquenchable determination of the South Vietnamese people to defend their rights to independence and the reunification of the country. United in a single block under the leadership of the National Front for Liberation, the South Vietnamese people rose up arms in hand against their oppressors and in an heroic struggle for the salvation of the Fatherland, succeeded in liberating from the American-Diemist yoke vast areas of the country which were extended every day. Confronted with defeats in their unilateral war against the South Vietnamese people, but not willing to renounce their aims of aggression with a view to enslave a people determined to defend at all costs their independence and unity, the American imperialists committed themselves ever more deeply to criminal activities, drawing up new criminal plans after having sustained repeated defeats.

From 1961 on; the USA went over to armed aggression under the form of "special war" against South Vietnam, essentially using the puppet army aiming at extinguishing the movement of resistance against this aggression and oppression and which grew every day in depth and intensity. At the start of the "special war" period the American government worked out the famous "Staley-Taylor" plan to "pacify South Vietnam within 18 months" of which the spinal column was the regrouping of the whole peasant population in a network of concentration camps camouflaged as "strategic hamlets". In carrying out this plan, which went parallel

with the maintenance and strengthening of the forces of repression and terrorism already used in the preceding period, the Americans and their puppets openly waged a war of extermination and destruction against the South Vietnamese people. Arms and other military equipment were introduced in ever-increasing quantities, various methods of warfare were employed, including chemical warfare on an increasing scale. The spreading of toxic chemical products started in 1961 and the use of combat gases since 1963. American and puppet troops went over to intense bombardments, sanguinary "mopping up" operations on a vast scale over the whole face of South Vietnam, experimenting with various military tactics of unvarying cruelty.

All these deeds testify to the destructive character and ever-increasing gravity of the American war of aggression.

US "special war" having been doubly shattered on the military and political fronts, "local" war succeeded it in 1965. At the same time as they extended the conflict to North Vietnam, Washington sent troops in massive numbers and at an accelerated rhythm to South Vietnam, reaching today almost half a million, supported by tens of thousands of satellite troops and by over 500,000 puppet troops. Under the slogan: "burn all, destroy all, kill all", this expeditionary corps slaughter the South Vietnamese people with the most modern and cruel arms and modern war material, the introduction of which was carried out at many times the rate of the preceding period.

MASS-MURDERS



The tactics of "two pincers", "search and destroy", "pacification" launched some time ago and which the US Command has done everything possible to carry out by applying the most barbarous methods are aimed at multiplying the massacres of the South Vietnamese people who refuse to submit and who inflict increasingly heavy defeats on the aggressors both on the political and military fronts.

All the American calculations and plans, no matter how Machiavellian have been checked one after another and defeated. However the American aggressors show no signs of renouncing their aggressive aims, stating with the consummate cynism that the USA cannot "abandon" South Vietnam as if South Vietnam was part of American territory. On October 15, 1967, Humphrey, vice-president of the United States declared:

"We will not allow ourselves to be vanquished and we will stay in Vietnam until the accomplishment of our mission... We have to be in Vietnam because our security demands this..." (UPI 16-10-1967).

Nourished by plans as sinister as they were far-reaching, incapable on the one hand of carrying them out because of the heroic resistance of the South Vietnamese people and their repeated and brilliant successes, the US aggressors display an unprecedented barbarity in carrying out their criminal acts of a scale and gravity which increases every day.

The intensification of the US war of aggression in South Vietnam is in fact an escalation of crimes.

Genocide is practised over the whole of Vietnam, but it is in South Vietnam that this crime is seen in its special aspects.

For the past ten years, Washington with the aid of a most cruel puppet power and an expeditionary corps, has been carrying out the war under all aspects, using the most barbarous war means and methods and experimenting at different stages with all sorts of criminal policies. US crimes in South

Vietnam are characterised by the vast scale on which they are committed, by the continuous nature of these crimes, their diversity of aspect and extreme gravity.

SECOND PART

A. CRIMINAL ACTS

In South Viet Nam, the American criminal acts are carried out under various forms. They attack the people in all aspects, physically, materially and morally. They attack in fact the life, health and corporal integrity of the Vietnamese, the latter's means and resources of existence. They attacked directly against the people's thought with a view to destroying the patriotic feelings and the will for independence and national reunification of the South Vietnamese people.

I. Massacres, mutilation on a massive scale, imprisonment and violence used against the civilian population

The history of US aggression in South Vietnam is that of conspiracy and acts of physical destruction of human beings by the most cruel and barbarous methods.

In waging a unilateral war in South Viet Nam, the

Americans and their valets massacred and terrorised the defenceless people, using the army, the police and prisons. As they could not force the people to yield, they extended and strengthened their policy of destruction by means of special war and then by neo-colonialist local war.

Right from the restoration of peace in Vietnam in July, 1954, the US-Diemists carried out sanguinary measures of repression against the population, aimed at physically suppressing Vietnamese patriots among all sections of the population.

From the end of 1954, violating article 14c of the Geneva Agreements, arbitrary arrests were carried out, individual and collective massacres were perpetrated on a large scale. Victims included former resistance members which means almost the entire South Vietnamese people. Even within the first year of the signing of the Geneva Agreements, their number reached tens of thousands. The names of Ngan Son, Duy Xuyen, Huong Dien, Cho Duoc, are among those unfortunately notorious throughout the country as scenes of most shocking carnage. In the affair of Duy Xuyen (Quang Nam province) on January 21, 1955, the executioners rounded up 116 persons, picked out 47 of them for disembowelling, gouging out their eyes, cutting off their tongues and ears before pouring petrol over them and setting it alight, throwing the remains into the Vinh Trinh dam. At Cho Duoc (Quang Nam province) on November 28, 1955 they buried alive 21 persons. These are only a few examples among thousands of others equally horrible.



Mass arrestation of civilians

From mid-1955 onwards, the American imperialists and their valets carried out numerous raids inflicting agony on one village after another. Each operation resulted in hundreds of dead and wounded, not counting arrests. A correspondent of the "Tribune des Nations" wrote on September 23, 1955: "The army of Diem carries out raids like wartime operations, throwing thousands of people living in former Vietminh controlled areas (areas liberated during the resistance) into concentration camps, robbing and killing them without any form of trial."

2. Those who have been denounced during the "sessions of denunciation of Communists" held by the Diem administration, were pitilessly tortured, imprisoned or killed. This war waged unilaterally by the "government" against the people caused hundreds of thousand victims in carrying out the slogan: "Rather to kill wrongly than to miss."

From 1961 on, with the start of open armed intervention, the plan of physical destruction of the population was carried to new heights.

Hitler applied the policy of "total war" in operational or occupied regions, hitting out at the civil population indiscriminately. Washington has gone even further, especially since 1965, the date of the beginning of local war, putting into practice the policy of "burn all, destroy all, kill all" ⁽¹⁾. The Americans carry out indiscriminate massacres, without any distinction between armed combatants and the civilian population, irrespective of age or sex of the victims. The aim is the total large-scale destruction of everything that exists, people and their belongings, houses, livestock, gardens, plantations, implements of labour, shops, harvests...

Led by American advisers, the raids unleashed by the puppet army were carried out at an already great wide scale during the special war. (For instance in 1962 there were 27.000 such actions, in 1963 not less than 37.000. By the end of 1965 the number of such operations reached 160.000). Since then, these carried out by the American Expeditionary Corps, the troops of satellite countries and puppet troops, have continuously increased in number and in violence, "puni-

(1) Read the document: American policy of "burn all, destroy all, kill all" in South Vietnam, published by the Committee for Denouncing the War Crimes of the Americans and their valets in South Vietnam (1967).

ve" operations aimed at extending the occupied areas; at "pacification", at creating "security zones" around American bases; at setting up "white zones", at hounding the population from their villages in an attempt to regroup them in concentration camps disguised as "strategic hamlets".

"Search and destroy", "pacification" and the recent so-called "two pincers" plan make clear even by their names the intention to exterminate which animates the aggressors. The US expeditionary force and its satellites, unleashed in these extermination operations apply to the utmost the slogan: "Burn all, destroy all, kill all" by employing all categories of arms and methods of warfare. As for the puppet troops, they are assigned the mission of "pacifying" the country; "*Pacification*" means nothing less than to arrest, torture, imprison or put to death all those who fall under the slightest suspicion of insubordination. About 90% of the 600.000 puppet soldiers are employed on this task, but not satisfied with this, the US command has detached part of US forces—in continuously increasing numbers—to participate directly in these sanguinary campaigns known as "pacification".

During these raids, the GI's and South Korean mercenaries, whose ferocity can only be described as "bestial", receive orders to destroy everything along their path; to ensure that the area left after their operations shall be absolutely "white"; that nothing shall be *left alive*. Thus, at Tuy Hoa in Phu Yen province, in 1966, GI's and South Korean mercenaries

behaved like wild animals, shouting: "Today I'm a killer; No quarter". In addition to bombs, shells, flame-throwers, toxic gases, they indulged in unimaginable acts of savagery, burning people alive, disembowelling and decapitating their victims; ripping babies apart before hurling them into the flames; cutting off women's breasts and raping young girls etc...

Toxic chemical products have been spread over vast areas causing numerous deaths, wounded and poisoned and rending invalid thousands of others. Snapping their fingers at outraged international public opinion, the American aggressors have continuously increased the areas subject to this spreading of toxic products from 1961 onwards until they include the whole of South Vietnam. According to still incomplete statistics, whereas in 1961 chemicals were sprayed over 560 hectares in 6 provinces, in 1965, these figures reached 700,000 ha in 26 provinces, the two thirds of provinces in South Viet Nam. In last year alone, 400 people died on the spot and 140,000 were poisoned of whom a number dies later, the survivors becoming invalids or affected by serious illnesses. In 1966, 32 provinces were affected over an area of 876,490 hectares, causing 462 deaths and 258,000 cases of poisoning. During the first six months of 1967, the figures are: 21 provinces, 474,000 hectares, 233 deaths and 139,744 cases of poisoning. These operations, apart from the deadly effect on the local population, considerably affect the economic life of the people, as we shall set out later on.

In order to kill people, the US Command has not hesitated to poison water and food supplies etc ⁽¹⁾.

Massacres have also been perpetrated in the prisons and concentration camps. The US-puppet penitentiary system of a most inhuman severity employs torture and brutality of an incalculable barbarity. The tortures and brutalities, added to the frightful living conditions in the prison, have caused the death of thousands of people, not counting those who have been turned into invalids for life. To liquidate en masse imprisoned patriots the US-puppet authorities have resorted to poison (as at Phu Loi on December 1, 1958 where 1,000 prisoners died out of a total of 6,000 who were poisoned), or by cutting prisoners' throats and decapitation (as at Kien Phong on June 20, 1960 where 52 prisoners were thus killed). In the prison of Hoi An, within three days at the end of 1959, there were 147 deaths out of 1,200 prisoners. In the Poulo Condor convict settlement, about 300 prisoners out of 4,000 perished between 1957-59. Those patriots locked in the "Tiger Cage" at Poulo Condor are treated absolutely as animals. subject day and night to the most inhuman torture, unheard of in the annals of penitentiaries. Numerous prisoners have gone mad, have become deaf and dumb, para-

(1) Read the document: Crueller than Hitler! (about the US chemical warfare), by the Committee for Denouncing the War Crimes of the Americans and their valets in South Vietnam (1966).

lytics, seriously mutilated, or stricken by mortal diseases ⁽¹⁾.

Between 1954 and 1965 according to still incomplete statistics, these criminal practices have brought the figures of victims of war and the bloodthirsty repression at the hands of the Americans and their valets, to over a million people of whom 170,000 killed and 800,000 wounded and invalids. There were still almost *half a million prisoners in the prisons*, not counting about 8 millions who had been concentrated in the "*strategic hamlets*". Since this date, the number of victims has increased considerably due to the intensification of the extermination practices ordered by the US Command. Even concerning children alone, William Pepper, director of the Childrens Institute at Mercy College, New York, published in the January 1967 of Ramparts magazine the results of an enquiry in which he estimates as 250,000 dead and 750,000 wounded, the number of South Vietnamese child victims of US aggression.

For the 14 millions of South Vietnamese these figures are terribly significant. As concerns villages and populated areas destroyed, one can count by the hundreds the numbers of South Vietnamese particularly atrocious Oradours and Lidices (although our territory is less than half that of France, our population equivalent to about a quarter that of France or roughly equal to that of Czechoslovakia).

(1) Read the Document : The policy of Terror : The Prison Regime and Tortures in South Vietnam by the Committee for Denouncing the War Crimes of the Americans and their valets in South Vietnam (1967).

II. Regroupement and concentration of population

The massacres perpetrated against our patriots, in the minds of the American hangmen, should have intimidated the Vietnamese people by sheer terror. Apart from a handful of traitors however the South Vietnamese people continue to fight unflinchingly for independence, reunification of the country, for liberty and democracy. In order to control a hostile population, the Americans and their valets have resorted to the policy of concentrating the population, placing them under a police regime reinforced by army support.



U.S. aggressors herded the inhabitants in the southern part of the demilitarized zone into helicopters and lifted them to the concentration camps.

Photo : a GI is guarding the evacuees

From 1955-56 onwards, the so-called "agricultural colonies" were installed in the Central Highlands in order to deport "suspect elements" from the plains. In 1967, the numbers of those herded into such camps, reached nearly 200,000 even according to Saigon figures. The measures proved insufficient. The aggressors and their valets wanted to keep the people in the plains under their firm control from the administrative and military viewpoint in order, according to the Saigon newspaper *Cach Mang Quoc Gia*, (official organ of the Ngo Dinh Diem clique) of October 10, 1959, "to prevent Vietcong agitation and propaganda". In 1959, therefore, the US-Diem administration proceeded with the herding of the rural population in the Mekong Delta into so-called "prosperity zones" by force, obliging peasants to abandon their land, their homes, their villages. This measure ended in fiasco because of the stubborn resistance of the peasants.

In 1961 with the unleashing of "special war" the Americans drew up the Staley-Taylor plan aimed at "pacifying South Vietnam in 18 months", providing among other things for the setting up of 17,000 "*strategic hamlets*" into which some 10 million peasants were to be herded. Ambitious as it was perfidious, this plan was considered the spinal column for US-type pacification. Washington allocated enormous credits to Saigon for carrying it out (see a Reuter report of September 22, 1962). The US Commander General Harkins and the USOM mission in Saigon, took the affair into their hands. In September, 1961 Col. Thompson, a high-ranking British police officer

who had been active in concentrating the Malayan population, came to Saigon to help the US advisers. Saigon devoted all its efforts and resorted to the most brutal methods to crush popular resistance to the idea of concentration. According to figures released themselves the American-Diemists towards the middle of 1963 had succeeded in herding 8,737,463 people—that is 61.90% of the total population of South Vietnam into a close-knit network of "strategic hamlets". (See the Saigon newspaper *Thoi Bao Vietnam* of June 4, 1963). The Americans and their valets were not able to achieve the figures originally planned because of popular opposition. Numerous hamlets had to be rebuilt many times (certain of them dozens of times) because of repeated destruction by the inmates themselves. But despite this the US masters and their valets stubbornly persisted in the maintenance and extension of the network of camouflaged concentration camps. People's war swept the countryside and the "strategic hamlets" were dismantled in mass over the past few years.

From 1965 a new US "pacification" plan, worthy of "local war" was set as a strategic objective. The result was stepped up bombardments and military operations on a vast scale, in the hope of hounding the peasants from their villages and herding them into "refugee camps" and "resettlement centres", organised little by little again into "strategic hamlets", rebaptised of necessity "new life hamlets".

"Strategic hamlets" are camps surrounded by mine ditches or equipped with high fences and barbed wire, with one or two severely controlled exits.

A neighbouring garrison is ready to intervene at the slightest alert by those responsible for the hamlet. The coercive apparatus is composed of the management organisation, elements from the police, security and militia and psychological warfare agents. The peasants locked up inside are deprived of any individual liberties or democratic rights. Every family has to post up on the entrance door a list of all family members and their photos. At any moment officials can enter their houses to control the presence of all family members and what they are doing. It is forbidden for the inhabitants to go out at night without a light or for more than three persons to meet together except on official orders. At the slightest signal they are obliged to rush out and assemble and await orders. Families are grouped together in small groups, forced to report on each other under the responsibility of the chief of each group. To go out at night, as with marriages or any anniversaries, official permission must be sought. It is obligatory to place food stocks in depots from where they are rationed out day by day or at regular intervals. Compulsory labour must be contributed for the construction and maintenance of the hamlet. Entries and exits are only permitted at stipulated hours and everyone must have a card for this purpose. The "strategic hamlets" are in a permanent state of curfew (UPI 17-2-1962).

Once concentration has been carried out, the hamlet authorities proceed with a most detailed investigation and set up a rigorous system of surveillance for any suspects. This is what the Saigon paper

"Ngon Luan" (official organ of the Diem family) described on August 22, 1961 as the "uncovering of the internal front, the searching of souls, the total offensive". Militiamen, policemen, Young Republican Guards (Diem's equivalent of the Hitler Youth) extend their claws to discover the "suspects". Indicators and security agents of every hue are on the go day and night, trying to keep the heads of "family groups" under their control and extract information from them. Families are forced to make weekly reports to the group head about their own situation, about what they see and hear when they go out. The group as a whole is held responsible for the flight of a member of any family belonging to the group. Compulsory "denounce Communist" courses are organised. Those denounced as "Vietcong" or as "Vietcong sympathisers" are arrested, interrogated, tortured and later sent to prison or executed.

From 1962-64, in the small hamlet of Luong Phu alone (Giong Trom district of Ben Tre province) with a total of 500 families, there were 217 killed, 100 women raped, over 1.000 arrests followed by torture. ⁽¹⁾ The "strategic hamlets" are indeed nothing but camouflaged concentration camps. In setting them up, the US imperialists and their valets have transformed South Vietnam into a gigantic prison. This is also the opinion of the National Guardian, an American publication, according to its issue of April 4, 1965.

(1) Read the document : American Policy of Concentrating the Population of South Vietnam by the Committee for Denouncing the War Crimes of the Americans and their valets in South Vietnam (1967).

III. Destruction of the resources and living conditions of the Southvietnamese people

Massacres, terrorism and concentration of the population are far from satisfying the murderous fury of the US aggressors. In order to suppress the will to fight for independence, national reunification, liberty and democracy, which inspires the South Vietnamese people, Washington has worked out and put into effect a systematic plan for weakening our nation by the destruction of vital resources and in general of all the normal material and moral means of existence of the Vietnamese masses in such a way that the latter, according to Washington's calculations would have no other choice than to submit to the American imperialist's yoke.

1. *Destruction of vital resources.*

In order to destroy the people's vital resources, the chemical warfare that the US imperialists have used in South Vietnam continuously and on an ever-greater scale since 1961, plays a role of crucial importance. World public opinion, including American opinion, has been deeply stirred by the fact that the US aggressors have spread these toxic chemicals on increasingly large areas of South Vietnam despite the express prohibitions of international law. Numerous world-famous individuals, scientists have raised their voices in protest against this odious crime, but, abandoning justice and conscience, the US warmongers have turned a deaf ear.

American intentions deliberately to destroy food resources was long ago clearly revealed in the

western press and by the admissions of Ngo Dinh Diem, that zealous agent and one-time favourite of Washington. "Newsweek" in its issue of September 27, 1961 noted that "US specialists have shown Vietnamese (puppet) pilots how to spread products capable of drying of rice plants and thus destroying the harvest in areas controlled by the Communists. The South Vietnam puppet authorities for their part have stated that substances aimed at destroying vegetation "must play an important role in plans aimed at cutting off Vietcong supplies". (New York Times, January 22, 1962). Diem considered that following the spreading of toxic chemicals: "the peasants will be forced to allow themselves to be concentrated and the Vietcong guerillas will find nothing left from which to obtain supplies". (Tribune des Nations, March 4, 1962).

Almost all of South Vietnam's provinces have been victims of the spreading of US toxic chemicals, millions of hectares of fields and forests have been affected. Cattle, indispensable for field work, domestic animals, poultry have been killed or stricken by illnesses, water supplies have been poisoned, harvests, orchards and diverse cultivations have been destroyed. Millions of people have been deprived of their sources of food.

The destruction of forests over vast areas has caused climatic irregularities, wreaking havoc with the circulation and distribution of streams and rivers over great parts of the country. Apart from the destruction of existing resources, the whole basis of our agricultural production is aimed at. Sometimes na-

palm is used after the chemical destruction of crops to carbonise and produce other harmful effects on the soil. Quite recently, US plans have used a new toxic substance with a great destructive effect which kills vegetation for all time, spraying this over large regions, especially in the northern and western regions of Quang Tri province (see AP, September 8, 1967).

Due to the disappearance of birds and insects killed or chased away by these chemical attacks, the reproduction of their species is hindered entailing long-term difficulties in restoring the cycle of vegetable life. Furthermore these sprayings are often carried out several times on the same places at regular intervals so calculated as to prevent any further plant growth.

In their ground raids, faithful to their aim of "burn all, destroy all, kill all" US troops, in destroying the villages do not spare the food reserves, crops, agricultural implements, cattle and other domestic animals which are within their reach. As for the inhabitants of villages along the coast (Vietnam has thousands of kilometres of coastline) they are submitted night and day to US air and naval bombardment, the US Command concentrating on boats, nets, fishing equipment, destroying the fisheries and salt pans which supply the Vietnamese people with food products of primary importance.

2. Destruction of the means of existence.

The destruction of the vital material means of existence of the South Vietnamese people is

undertaken with modern arms, including chemical weapons.

Application of the "burn all, destroy all, kill all" policy, as well as the spreading of toxic chemical substances to devastate vast areas of the countryside seriously harms the normal living conditions of millions of people and hinders their productive labour. Thousands of villages are reduced to rubble, population centres are razed to the ground. Over vast stretches of the land complete desolation reigns. To cite a few examples: Cu Chi district with its 18 villages and 60,000 inhabitants at the gateway to Saigon has been the object, especially since 1966, of systematic destruction by US planes and artillery firing night and day at any semblance of life; at the silhouette of man or beast, a wisp of smoke, a light, a bush shaken by the wind etc. Not a single house remains intact. Along the eastern Vaico river, a particularly fertile region and formerly densely populated, there are nothing but ruins to be seen without the shadow of a roof along an area of some 30 kms. In the areas surrounding the US bases of Chu Lai, Da Nang or Ben Suc (Thu Dau Mot province) the same spectacle of desolation. Ben Suc has been "wiped off the map" according to AP of January 16-17, 1967.

Homes, public buildings, household implements are systematically destroyed. During the six last months of 1965, the number of houses burned or destroyed in Binh Dinh province, was about 10,000. From June 24 to July 14, 1965 another 10,000 were razed to the ground in the districts of Dien Ban and Dai Loc (Quang Nam province). According to still incomplete

statistics, from March 1965 till August 1966 around the US base at Da Nang almost 40.000 houses were demolished or reduced to ashes. During these raids, GI's and satellite soldiers vented their fury against every object essential for production and daily existence. At Bau Trai (Long An province) from December 31, 1965 to January 7, 1966 "all kitchen utensils were broken, all banana palms cut down, all sleeping mats slashed to pieces" reported AP, January 8, 1966. (See the booklet entitled American policy: "Burn all, Destroy all, Kill all" in South Vietnam and Crueller than Hitler" quoted above).

The population in many areas has been forced to live completely in underground shelters and to work their fields only at nights.

Those who are concentrated in the "strategic hamlets" also live, as described earlier, under most difficult conditions.

The Americans and their valets brutally trample underfoot the rights and liberties of human beings, as well as the moral and spiritual values so dear to mankind — his dignity.

Vietnamese peasants, profoundly attached to their traditions, their soil, their native villages, the tombs of their ancestors, are torn away from their ancient dwelling places and transported into "strategic hamlets" or other concentration camps absolutely foreign to them, in an atmosphere of ever-present threats. US bulldozers, shells and bombs flatten or destroy thousands of tombs, sometimes ploughing up entire cemeteries.

Freedom disappears. No security of any sort for the rural population. Life goes on in an atmosphere of constant terror where arrests and torture may strike at anyone at any moment. No freedom of movement, of work, of assembly or to entertain relations with anyone else... *The "strategic hamlets" policy is an organised attack against individual freedom and democracy on a scale unknown in history.*

In the towns, because of the opposition by the masses and also for demagogic necessity, the Americans and their valets have had to resort to more subtle but no less implacable forms of coercion. Freedom of press and opinion are stifled. Treachery and betrayal of the national interests are the only virtues encouraged by the puppet administration. All those who speak of real independence, or of neutrality, is branded as vietcong. (A decree of the Saigon puppet regime of 1-1-1964 outlawed: "Communist and neutralist persons and organisations".) Johnson pretends to be "seeking peace" but any Vietnamese who speaks of peace is flung into prison. One can very well see what the terms "independence" and "safeguarding freedom" and "desire for peace" really mean in the mouths of the neo-colonialists! Freedom of religion and belief is violated in the most flagrant fashion. Not satisfied with intervening in the internal affairs of the religious sects, the repressive forces in South Vietnam, destroy sanctuaries and educational centres, arrest and imprison religious leaders. The persecution of the Buddhists, started under Ngo Dinh Diem has continued to rage in recent years in Saigon, Hue and other cities. Numerous

Buddhist bonzes and bonzesses have burned themselves alive in protest.

Men and women have been ill-treated, their human dignity trampled underfoot. Prisoners are treated as animals, subject to unimaginable torture. American and satellite troops drag them behind their vehicles or haul for kilometres on end those they have captured during military operations, raping women prisoners in public. In the prisons themselves the most degrading and inhuman tortures are inflicted. Prison guards lock prisoners up in iron cages, throwing their food on the floor alongside the latrines buckets, forcing them to eat like animals etc.

IV. Destruction of families. Crimes against women and children

No aggressor till now has ever struck at the family, as units and social institutions, in such a deliberate and systematic manner and on such a scale as have the Americans in South Vietnam.

In their frantic urge to exterminate the civilian population in their war of aggression, the Americans have put in mourning virtually the entire population. There is practically no family, at least extremely few, which does not nourish personal hatred against the US aggressors and their valets. During military operations the latter kill children: then throw them into flames tearing apart the limbs or smashing in the skulls of children in front of their parents; raping women before the eyes of their husbands and children, etc...



Mr Chu lost all his 6 children killed by a bomb at Tam Quan (Camau province).

This is not only done to cause grief and suffering to families because of the loss of family members. It is a deliberate attempt to disintegrate the most sacred relations binding families together.

From the time of the restoration of peace in 1954, during the "Denounce Communist" sessions and the persecution of South Vietnamese patriots, a veritable attack was organised against family relations resulting in a very great number of victims. Members of each family were forced mutually to denounce each other. That is to say to push each other towards the torture chamber and the execution ground. Inhuman puppet officials forced women whose husbands had regrouped to the North in accordance with the Geneva Agreements to publicly

repudiate them. Fathers had to renounce their children. On December 13, 1954, the chief of Quang Nam province ordered all women to divorce within 3 months those husbands who has regrouped to the North. In numerous localities, the puppet authorities organised "weeks of collective divorce and renunciation" and all those who refused to play along were subject to further repression. Women whose husbands had regrouped to the North or were absent for reasons considered "suspect" were obligated to remarry against their will and many of them had to flee their villages. The closest relatives of those arrested or placed under surveillance as "suspects" were not permitted to send them food, nor to write to them — all relations had to be completely severed.

The US aggressors are guilty of crimes against South Vietnam's women and children, impossible to describe by written or spoken word.

Women are not only forced to lose their husbands, their children, their fathers, they themselves are the victims of massacres and inhuman illtreatment.

The greater part of the victims of US aggression are to be found among the women and children. Sufferings have been inflicted on them such as history has never seen. This is one of the most characteristic traits of US crimes in South Vietnam. In the districts of Hoa Vang, Dien Ban, Duy Xuyen and Dai Loc (Quang Nam province) from March 1965 to August 1966, women and children made up 67% of the killed and 84% of the wounded. Women were raped, including those who were pregnant, old women and girl-



Burned by napalm U.S. on January 19, 1968 to infirmity, Mrs Truong Thi Nen (Gia Rai district, Camau province) is fed by her son, 10 years old, whose one sole hand remained valid.

children. In those above-mentioned villages 750 cases of rape took place, including girls of under than 15 years. One in every five of these died as a result of successive raping by different individuals. US and satellite troops sometimes organised mass orgies of rape, as in the case of a hundred unfortunates given over to Yankee bestiality in the courtyard of the Yen Ne school during a raid against the districts of Hoa Vang and Dien Ban (Quang Nam province) in August 1965. Another two hundred were raped during a "mopping up" operation in Ben Luc and Go Den (Long An province)...

In the towns, American occupation has led to misery and moral depravity, prostitution has become prevalent in catastrophic proportions. According to incomplete figures, there are about 70.000 prostitutes in Saigon, 10.000 in Hue (a city of 140.000 inhabitants). Nguyen Cao Ky, the scoundrel then at the head of the puppet government, rounded up girls and opened up brothels for the troops of the American expeditionary corps with a zeal all the more ardent because he was financially interested. A number of these unfortunate girls were rendered sterile beforehand (300 known cases in Ben Tre province from 1961 to 65). AP on November 14, 1966 reported that: "According to Saigon government statistics, about 40% of the prostitutes are affected by venereal disease".

In the prisons, women are subject to barbarous and sadistic tortures introduction of sticks, police batons, barbed steel bars, bottle necks etc. into the vagina, mutilation of the uterus etc... with the avowed aim of rendering the victims incapable of procreation.

The crimes against children are even more abominable. According to figures published by William Pepper in the January 1967 issue of Ramparts, *the war has killed, wounded or burned with napalm one million South Vietnamese children, (250.000 killed and 750.000 wounded).*

There are about 10.000 children in 77 orphanages, but millions of others roam around with neither home nor family, reduced to skin and bones, forced to beg. (AFP, December 22, 1966). Many of them have lost legs and arms, others have their faces

disfigured by napalm, still others affected by mental disorders. The London weekly "Sunday Mirror" in a reportage by John Pilger under the title: "Can England Approve Such A War?" wrote: "After 7 years of war in Vietnam, there are a quarter of a million children killed-the equivalent of the victims of the A bomb dropped on Hiroshima..." (AFP, September 3, 1967).

Confronted with such crimes unleashed against them by these veritable 20th century demons, South Vietnam's women and children have risen up to take part in armed struggle against the aggressor. A number of them have been decorated as heroes.

V. Destruction of our national culture

US bombs and shells strike indiscriminately at schools, churches, pagodas, sanctuaries, historic monuments and famous sites in South Vietnam. It is impossible at present to present an exact account of destruction in this field. In the districts of Hoa Vang, Dien Ban, Duy Xuyen and Dai Loc, from March 1965 to August 1966, there were 35 schools, 82 Buddhist pagodas, 22 Cao Dai temples and 32 Catholic churches destroyed, with numerous pupils, bonzes and priests killed. By these figures one can easily imagine the extent of the damage on a national scale and the harm done to the Vietnamese people's national culture.

In the occupied regions, the American aggressors attack the Vietnamese national culture and its

splendid traditions and at the same time they try to propagate by all means, what they call: "American civilisation" and the "American way of life"; to corrupt the morals of the people under their control and with this aim, to destroy the national conscience and patriotic sentiments of the population and force them into submission.

Thus in the schools as in day-to-day life, they exert all their efforts to poison the people with anachronic feudal and reactionary ideologies. Glorious facts in the history of the Vietnamese nation are distorted just as the movement for national liberation in recent periods of our history are falsified and slandered. In particular is this so in the present war of resistance against the USA and for national salvation of our people. The Americans hope by this to deceive the masses of our people and furnish an excuse for their criminal aggression.

This plot to destroy Vietnamese national culture is of a Machiavellian quality. It is part of a vast program directed against the ideological stand of the Vietnamese people and aimed at their political enslavement. The despatch of American expeditionary forces to South Vietnam constitutes in itself a factor in the degeneration of morals in the occupied areas. A Reuter despatch of June 9, 1967 recognised that "the American presence provokes numerous social disorders in Vietnam".

US pornographic publications and films flood Saigon and other towns of South Vietnam. "Hero" types such as killers, rapists, highway robbers make their daily exhortations to our youth.

Gangsterism, hooliganism, prostitution, gambling have free reign in the cities. The cult of the dollar has pride of place. The pauperisation of the masses due to US-puppet policy and the corruptive influence of the presence of soldiers of the US expeditionary corps are the direct causes of this outbreak of social evils of which the main victims are *young people* and *children*. Juvenile delinquency increases at a staggering rate. *Young people* and even children set up gangster bands and indulge in all sorts of hooliganism. Very young extravagantly dressed girls, whom the Saigon press calls "nymphettes", openly provoke men in the streets and count among 70,000 street girls frequenting the various bars of Saigon.

VI. Direct attacks against individual thought aimed at destroying national sentiments and at crushing the will to struggle for independence and the unity of the South Vietnamese people

During their war of aggression, the men of Washington have run into the most fierce opposition from the South Vietnamese people. It is this which brings them to try by all means to crush the people's patriotism and will to struggle, to force them to renounce their aspirations for independence, reunification, freedom and democracy. The arrests, tortures, brutalities and mass killings, the destruction of vital resources, the imposition of untenable and inhuman living conditions are aimed partly at physical liquidation and persecution of people judged dangerous for their policy of enslavement; partly at terrorising

the masses of the people and weakening their will to struggle for national liberation. Washington does not restrict itself to these methods; it has put into effect a whole plan of attack against thought itself, aimed at eradicating from people's minds all feelings of patriotism and the will to struggle for independence and reunification. This is a specific aspect of American crimes in South Vietnam of which the perfidy and cruelty exceeds anything which has even been undertaken in this field in the annals of the history of mankind.

We deem it necessary, after the above expose of US crimes, to denounce this other odious form of crime which consists of directly attacking the Vietnamese people through its moral personality, aiming at destroying their thought and national sentiments, their will to independence, reunification, liberty and democracy.

This is the sort of thing being done:

1. During the "Denounce Communist" campaign.

From the moment peace returned to Vietnam in 1954, the American imperialists and Ngo Dinh Diem puppet authorities put into effect their "denounce and exterminate Communists" policy throughout South Vietnam. After sanguinary military expeditions sowing terror in the countryside, sessions of "education for the denunciation of Communists" were held to force the people to recognize as well-founded the slanders against the former resistance members and the movement for national liberation and to consider the Saigon authorities as "patriots", the Americans as "benefactors" of the Vietnamese people.

People were forced to salute the puppet government flag, to worship and pledge their loyalty to Ngo Dinh Diem. Finally they forced people to denounce each other mutually as "Vietcong" or "Vietcong sympathisers". Practically the entire population of South Vietnam was subjected to this criminal practice. Those who tried to evade it, those who were denounced at these sessions as "Vietcong", were hounded down if they were not present and handed over to the torturers, thrown into prison, or simply liquidated.

2. In the prisons and camps termed: "Reeducation Centres".

The direct offensive waged against man's thought continued in the prisons and so-called "reeducation and rehabilitation centres" over a thousand of which were set up, containing about half a million persons. In these prisons and camps, brutalities and torture reigned supreme, as measures of reprisal and means of obtaining information but also and above all, to destroy the victims' morale, to force them to renounce their will to independence, liberty and national reunification; to intimidate other victims threatened with being subjected to the same treatment inflicted on others before their eyes, if they persisted in their opinions. Brutal treatment went hand-in-hand with corruption and the purchase of consciences. Brutal treatment preceded the pressures of persuasion which in their turn were succeeded by further brutalities in case of failure. The American puppet brutes called these witchhunting persecutions as "acts of renunciation" (in Vietnamese "ly khai"). The savage iniqui-

sitorial measures of this type applied to political prisoners or those considered as dangerous "suspects" locked up in the "tiger cages" at Poulo Condor are typical examples of this. The personal experience of Bat Khuat (the Indomitable) regarding this question and related by Nguyen Duc Thuan who was imprisoned continuously from 1960 to 1964, constitutes a great and valuable testimony of our times. What is the essence of operation "Ly Khai"? It consists, according to the above-mentioned testimony, to proclaim publicly that one denies one's revolutionary, patriotic and progressive convictions, that one accepts as established truths the lies and slanders of Washington and Saigon regarding the resistance movement against American aggression and for national liberation; that one recognises the puppet government in the pay of the Americans as the incarnation of patriotism; the American aggressors as benefactors; that one proclaims an "amende honorable" and salutes the puppet colors and swears fidelity to the Saigon régime of traitors—in a word, one agrees to betray the interests of the Fatherland.

Far from wishing the immediate death of their victims, the brutes in authority apply all sorts of ingenious methods to prolong the torture in such a way as to wrest a declaration of "renunciation". These in charge of torture at Poulo Condor tell prisoners: "We'll bash you until you knuckle down to 'ly khai', until you denounce your leaders and renounce the ideas for which you fight". While torturing their victims, they hurl the following type of insults: "You are still for peace, independence,

democracy?" If prolonged torture produces no results, they go over to persuasions: "Agree to renounce your ideas, and you can return home, live with your family after a period of study..." (Extract from the testimony of Nguyen duc Thuan). Whoever can survive such inhuman treatment will generally end up with a legacy of physical and mental infirmities for the rest of his life.

3. Inside the "strategic hamlets".

The same practices are current in the "strategic hamlets", of which a vast network covers South Vietnam and whose inhabitants can be counted by the millions (8 millions according to Saigon statistics in 1963). In the "strategic hamlets" the peasants continue to learn about "denouncing Communists" with two sessions a week. Meetings for such "studies" are announced by signals given by tocsins. A first absence is punished by 5 days of forced labour and whoever repeats this is considered a "rebel". People are divided into three categories: "legal citizens" comprising agents loyal to the USA and an infinitesimal proportion of people demoralised by threats and persecutions, who have acceded to the will of the oppressors; the "semi-legal" formed by the parents and friends of the "outlaws"; finally the "illegal", the "outlaws" comprising patriots branded as "Vietcong". For these two latter categories, measures have been designed to eliminate all progressive and patriotic feelings from the human mind and soul.

Such are the practices employed by the Americans and their valets in South Vietnam to affect directly

the national sentiments and ideological thoughts of a section of one entire part of the Vietnamese nation.

One can see by this that in order to force the South Vietnamese people to accept enslavement, to renounce their thousand-year long traditions of national feelings as well as the fruits of the revolutionary struggle acquired by so many heroic sacrifices from the time of the August Revolution until today, the US imperialists have made a serious attempt upon the national existence of the South Vietnamese people, in its physical, material and moral aspects with the aid of criminal plans as odious as they are machiavellian.

In order better to appreciate the gravity of American crimes in South Vietnam it is necessary to examine in the text that follows the main lines of the means and methods employed by the aggressors in the execution of their crimes.

B. TECHNIQUES AND METHODS EMPLOYED IN CARRYING OUT CRIMES

1. Washington has employed as one of its instruments against the South Vietnamese people, a brutal and fascist clique of puppets. The US-backed regime in Saigon is maintained by the army, police, security organs and prisons to enforce repression of the population. During their criminal activities, the Americans have selected from among their agents a whole class of perverse agents who have lost all human resemblance, designated by the people as "ac on" (cruel

devils) capable of the most horrible acts of savagery against human beings, such as throat-cutting, disembowelling, knives thrust into throats, removal of livers and going as far as eating human flesh and drinking human blood. Descending to the level of beasts, they torture in cold blood with a sadistic pleasure as if they were engaged in the most normal of occupations.

The USA have employed an army in South Vietnam whose effectives now total over 1,200,000 US-puppet and satellite troops equipped with most modern means of warfare. A third of the US tactical air force is used (about 4,000 planes of all types, of which 1,300 are the latest model such as B.52 strategic bombers; C.123 transport planes for the spreading of toxic chemicals) and almost 80% of the US aircraft carrier plane fleet are committed to the Vietnamese theatre of war.

As for weapons, they have used new scientific and technical realizations for mass killing and devastation. In South Viet Nam they have even used weapons prohibited by international law except only nuclear weapons.

The outside world has had occasion to compare the tonnage of bombs and shells hurled against Viet Nam, especially in the South, with those employed during the last world war. In April 1966 McNamara announced to the US Congress that in 1966, 638,000 tons of bombs would be dropped on Vietnam, a figure exceeding that of American bombs used in the whole Pacific theatre of operations during World War II (502,781 tons)... (Tribune des Nations, April 29, 1966

and New York Herald Tribune, October 10, 1966). Cyrus Vance, former US Assistant Defence Secretary in a televised interview estimated that the tonnage of bombs dropped on Vietnam in 1966, was equivalent to 91% of that used in the 37 months of the Korean War (Reuter, April 14, 1966, AP, April 24, 1966). Also according to Reuter of January 11, 1966, in one month US troops in South Vietnam fired one billion shells and bullets; including 10 million artillery and mortar shells, 88 millions machine-gun bullets and 4,8 million rockets. In June 1966, the US 7th Fleet fired 40,000 shells along the Vietnamese coast (UPI, September 8, 1966).

In order to be able to "burn all, destroy all, kill all" the US army has made massive use of high explosive and proximity burst bombs, bombs of phosphorous, napalm, magnesium, CBU fragmentation bombs and rockets, flame-throwers and even chemical weapons, toxic substances and combat gas... Highly poisonous chemical substances have been daily sprayed from planes.

2. The US aggressors have employed the most cruel and barbarous military techniques.

In order to ensure the maximum destructive efficiency, shellings and bombings are carried out uninterruptedly day and night over a long period. Thus in Cu Chi district between January 18 and February 28, 1966 180,000 shells were fired, that is 4,500 per day and an average of 3 per head of the whole population. (AP, March 1966). According to UPI and AFP, in January, March and April 1966

(UPI, 18-1-1966, AFP, 11-3-1966, and 2-4-1966) US planes carried out an average of 500 sorties a day.

According to the international edition of "New York Herald-Tribune" quoting their correspondent Richard Havood, the number of US air sorties over South Vietnam in the first week of July 1967, was 33,354. B.52 flying superfortresses of the strategic aviation are used in the destruction of villages and the extermination of the civilian population (using even magnesium bombs). In two years from June 1965 to May 1967, the B.52's have carried out 10,000 raids over virtually the entire territory of South Vietnam, dropping 190,000 tons of bombs, (AP, 9-6-1967, AFP, 21-9-1967).

Apart from the bombing of specific targets the US Air Force employs the method of "free zone" bombing for the destruction of places the outlines of which are traced in advance on the maps to permit bombing by coordinates in so-called carpet bombing. The spraying of chemical products is done indiscriminately according to lines drawn on the maps. Many areas have been victims of such sprayings repeated at closely-spaced intervals.

During "mopping-up raids", application of the "burn all, destroy all, kill all" policy has resulted in entire regions being completely razed, literally "wiped off the map" (AP, January 14 and 16, 1967).

The use of different types of weapons is calculated according to a precise plan for each operation aimed at killing the maximum possible number of people. For instance, by dropping explosive bombs and chemical products, they get the inhabitants out of their

anti-air raid shelters then killed them with explosive bombs and C.B.U.s.

It is worthwhile stressing that for over 10 years the American aggressors have been effectively using the South Vietnamese people as experimental guinea-pigs for their strategies, tactics, military methods and techniques and new types of arms. The results obtained are not only exploited on the local battlefield but are intended to serve on future US battlefields in new theatres of war.

Hitler limited himself to experimenting with lethal gases in the secrecy of concentration camps, but Washington has quite openly turned Vietnam into a vast laboratory for such criminal experiments. General Harkins stated on February 8, 1965 that "for the American army Vietnam has become an experimental field of anti-guerilla warfare". On the special subject of weapons, "Le Figaro" of April 25, 1965 wrote that: "Vietnam has become an experimental field for all sorts of inventions of the military technicians. The aim is to try out on living targets inventions that could later be used in other theatres of operations".

THIRD PART

THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS BY THEIR ACTS OF GENOCIDE IN SOUTH VIETNAM ARE THE GREATEST CRIMINALS KNOWN TO HISTORY.

By the scale on which they are committed, their continuity, their intentional and systematic character,

US deeds in South Vietnam constitute abominable crimes against humanity according to international law. Committed in a war of aggression, these crimes are doubly criminal committed in violation of the currently accepted laws and practices of war.

The American aggressors have systematically violated a whole series of International Conventions and Declarations dating from the middle of the 19th century until the present time, particularly the 4th Hague Convention of 1907 on the question of laws and practices of ground warfare, the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949 regarding the protection of the civilian population in time of war, the Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925, regarding the prohibition on employing chemical and bacteriological weapons, the Nuremburg principles recognised by the UN Assembly on December 11, 1946 as constitution general principles of international law. Crimes against humanity are by their nature systematic and large-scale violations of the fundamental rights of human beings. In making themselves guilty of the most odious crimes against humanity infringing on the fundamental rights of human beings, the American aggressors have trampled underfoot in the most brutal manner, the principles solemnly recognised by the United Nations Charter and the 1948 Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man.

Furthermore, the reprisals against former resistance members are contrary to Art. 14c of the Geneva Agreements on the cessation of hostilities in Vietnam.

By their barbarous behaviour in South Vietnam,

the American government is guilty of countless crimes against humanity which taken together and committed with the intention of destroying the Vietnamese people, constitutes a crime of genocide within the terms of the 1948 Convention on genocide.

The 1948 Convention defined genocide as acts perpetrated: "with the intention of destroying in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group". The criminal activities of the US incontrovertibly constitute a crime of genocide even if considered within the strictest interpretation of the above-cited text. It is however, worthwhile stressing that the criminal practices of the US in South Vietnam, as far as acts regarding the destruction of a national group are concerned, they far exceed that which has been stipulated in Article 2 of the above Convention. In trying to achieve their plans for world hegemony and the enslavement of peoples, American imperialism has resorted not only to physical and biological means for the destruction of nations, but also to attacks on other fundamental essentials for the life of national groups.

In fact in South Vietnam the US aggressors strike the Vietnamese nation in all aspects of its life, political, economic, cultural, ideological and social, striking at the physical, material and moral life of the human being. Thus not only are they guilty of the crime of Genocide as defined by the 1948 Geneva Convention but they have committed other crimes directed against the very existence of the Vietnamese nation in its moral and ideological aspects, seriously violating the juridical norms set out in the

Nuremburg Statutes and other major documents of international law guaranteeing fundamental rights of nations and human beings.

It is worth noting that not only does Washington violate international law but it consistently strives to deform this law in covering up its crimes. It has also gone so far as to renounce the principles of international law to give itself a free hand in the perpetration of these crimes. Those, who after World War II, took part — in the name of progressive principles of international law — in condemning the Hitler fascists now take it upon themselves to trample these same legal principles under their feet.

This arrogance and cynism of the USA is only equalled by their hypocrisy and perfidy. While American troops are daily committing such odious crimes in Vietnam, Johnson and his followers unceasingly orate about "defence of freedom" and the "interests of the South Vietnamese population". Just as they try to cover up their crime of aggression — which is already only too evident — they do their best to cover up their other crimes. The spreading of murderous chemical products as described as an inoffensive "grass-killing" and "defoliation" undertakings are only aimed at "countering guerilla activities". The massive bombing of the civilian population in their mouths becomes attacks against "military objectives". Massacres and pillage of civilians are camouflaged under terms of "seeking out and destroying regular forces", "pacification", "revolutionary rural development" (!), "open arms programme" etc... It is therefore necessary for us to rip off the mask

before the world public opinion that they try to deceive.

Reality is that during their escalation in this aggressive war, Americans go further every day along the road of crime. The US extremists, enraged at being militarily and politically defeated in South Vietnam scream for death, appeal for further intensification of the war of extermination, they only means according to them of gaining victory. The policy of intensifying and extending their war of aggression against Vietnam leads the aggressors to commit ever graver crimes of genocide against the Vietnamese people.

American genocide in Vietnam betrays certain characteristic traits of an extremely cruel and barbarous character.

As has been set out above, the American criminals are not only physically exterminating the South Vietnamese people, but they are trying to destroy them morally. From the physical viewpoint, they are waging their attacks on a considerable scale against the life, the physical being and health of millions of people the great majority being women and children. With regard to women special methods of torture are applied to cause them maladies difficult to cure and render them incapable of procreation. All these acts exercise a nefarious influence on the development of the Vietnamese people at the present time and in the future. On the one hand the US criminals destroy the means of subsistence, production and diverse resources of the material life of the people, obliging the latter to live under such

conditions as to make it impossible to avoid undernourishment, pauperism and lingering death. Everyone is subject to arbitrary arrest, torture and execution without trial. But the crimes do not stop there. On the other hand they attack diverse aspects of the moral and spiritual life of the South Vietnamese people as human beings with their inherited attributes, in depriving them of the most elementary freedoms, trampling underfoot their dignity, their most sacred sentimental and spiritual values, destroying the family, the national culture and by the degradation of life in the occupied regions. To arrive at their criminal ends, they push their cruelty and barbarity to the point of direct attacks against individual thought and conscience to make their victims renounce the above-mentioned values and thus condemn themselves to the greatest possible moral degradation.

All these murderous acts against the life of the Vietnamese people represent a three-pronged attack, physical, material and moral, aimed at stifling and wiping out the patriotic movement of the South Vietnamese people against American aggression, at suppressing its will for independence and freedom.

The techniques and methods used by the American in executing their crimes in South Vietnam are extremely inhuman. The Americans make large-scale use of prohibited weapons like chemical substances and toxic gases which Hitler himself never dared use publicly incendiary and pellet fragmentation bombs with a specific anti-personnel effect. Their aim is to make people die under atrocious suffering and

to leave horrifying mutilations on the survivors. The profusely-used napalm and pellet bombs have caused the death of thousands of people and wounded tens of thousands of others, above all women and children. The American criminals are not only cruel and barbarous to a degree which revolts the human conscience but they have lost all sense of human feeling when they cynically pretend that these toxic gases are military weapons "more human" than any others!

There is no need to stress further the monstrosity of their experimental use of new strategies, tactics and weapons of mass extermination at the cost of a whole people to satisfy US aims of world domination. American killings, tortures and brutalities are carried out with ferocity and sadism linking medieval torture methods to those of neo-fascist barbarism, the most primitive means to that of the most modern scientific techniques of torture and crime.

By the scale, variety and gravity of their crimes in South Vietnam, the US imperialists have truly surpassed Hitler in cruelty and savagery. They are the greatest criminals history has ever known.

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The genocide committed by the Americans in South Vietnam is thus a method employed to accomplish their crime of aggression against the South Vietnamese people serving the goals of enslavement which they have set themselves. With the characte-

ristics set out above this crime of genocide is of exceptional gravity.

In defiance of world opinion the criminal activities of the US continue to rage on a greater scale and in greater intensity every day as their aggression is stepped up. It is only thanks to their heroism, their unity in the struggle and their centuries long traditions of victorious resistance to invaders, determined not to allow themselves to be destroyed, that the South Vietnamese people, organised and led since 1960 by the National Front for Liberation, have succeeded in effectively defending themselves and in limiting their losses — which should have been vastly greater according to Washington's calculations.

In the name of the South Vietnamese people who are struggling with such heroism and determination against American aggression, we vigorously denounce, before world public opinion, the barbarous crimes of which those in the White House and Pentagon are guilty, in defiance of moral principles and international law. We appeal to the whole of humanity to raise its voice, from all parts of the world against these crimes and to take steps to halt the bloody hand of the US imperialist aggressors, the most dangerous enemy of our era to people everywhere.

Together with their brothers in the North, the South Vietnamese people fight not only for the defence of their own right to existence but in the interests of all peoples struggling for peace, independence, freedom and social progress. Enjoying the

support of the socialist countries and liberty and justice-loving people of the whole world, our struggle will most certainly end in final victory. The just cause of the Vietnamese people will triumph; the crimes of the aggressors will be duly punished.

Octobre, 1967

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