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<u>CONTENTS</u>	Pages.
1- New Year Message to the Vietnamese people from Truong Chinh, President of the Council of State, Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam ,	... 1
2- New significant changes in the National Economy	... 3
3- Significant Economic Achievements in 1982	... 4
4- Some figures on the Soviet Union's generous and selfless economic and technical Assistance to Vietnam over the past 30 years,	... 5
5- Note of Vietnamese Foreign Minister to the Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned countries	... 7
6- Kampuchea and Representation in Non-Aligned Movement	... 10
7- India's correct decision	... 10
8- Slanderous information refuted	... 12
9- Kampuchea, a miraculous rebirth	... 12
10- Meeting of Indochinese Deputy Foreign Ministers	... 14
11- Press Communique of the Fifth Meeting of the Mekong Committees of the Indochinese countries	... 14.

NEW YEAR MESSAGE TO THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE
FROM TRUONG CHINH, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE,
MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF
THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM

Dear Combatants and Compatriots,

In implementation of the Resolution of the Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam in 1982, our Party, People and Army have achieved new successes in the cause of socialist construction and defending socialism.

The encouraging achievements in agriculture and the progress made by all sectors, localities and grass-root units have been a significant step forward in the national economy. They have ushered in a new era in which we will be able to overcome all difficulties and set our economy on the road of gradual consolidation, and development.

I highly appreciate the industrious and persevering spirit of our working class, collective farmers, intellectuals, soldiers, home guards and national minorities, especially those units and individuals who have performed outstanding feats in working, defending our country and in fulfilling our international obligations.

In this new year, in the light of the Resolution of the Third Plenum of our Party's Central Committee, let us strive to strengthen the people's right of socialist collective mastery, to carry out emulation in increasing production, and practising thrift, to implement successfully the 1983 State Plan, and ~~announced~~ targets for 1985 which have been approved by the National Assembly.

Let us concentrate our energy to meet the people's basic material and cultural needs and to accelerate socialist transformation, push forward the national economy including circulation

and distribution, build a healthy way of life and struggle effectively against negative social phenomena.

Let the whole Party, People and Army strengthen their solidarity and heighten their vigilance to frustrate the many-sided war of sabotage by our enemies, defending our nation and maintaining social order and national security.

In 1983, vigorous changes must be made in order to create favourable conditions for the coming years.

On the occasion of the New Year, on behalf of the Party Central Committee, the National Assembly, the State Council and the Council of Ministers, I would like to convey my warmest best wishes to our people throughout the land, soldiers of the People's armed forces, disabled veterans and the families of war martyrs, old people, children and overseas Vietnamese.

On behalf of our Party, State and People, I would like to convey to the peoples of fraternal countries and our friends throughout the world our warmest greetings and thanks.

May the struggle of nations for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress achieve ever greater successes.

Spring 1983

2- NEW SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY : In December, 16 editorial, NHAN DAN (People) Newspaper affirms that over the past two years, the Vietnamese people have courageously overcome many difficulties and recorded notable achievements.

The paper says that the recent third plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (3-10/12/1982) made the first step towards implementing the 5th Party Congress's resolutions on economic policy, has solved several important problems relating to the struggle between the two roads (socialist and capitalist), the organisation of production, socialist transformation, the re-organization of management structures and the ideological strengthening of socialist positions.

The plenum, the paper continues, considered that during the past two years, the Vietnamese people have courageously overcome many difficulties and trials and have recorded many notable achievements, brought about new and very important changes in the national economy. The results in agricultural production are encouraging. We have made good progress in resolving the food problem. Food purchases by the state have been appreciably greater than in previous years. Industrial production also has increased, especially in local industry, light industry and handicrafts.

Notable progress has also been achieved in exports, as well as in basic construction. The socialist transformation of agriculture has been completed essentially in Southern Central Vietnam and has made new steps forward in the Mekong delta. The economic situation is now much better than it was in the past two years.

However, the newspaper continues, these changes and progress are not sufficiently deep and thorough going. A lot of socio-economic difficulties have to be resolved : ups and downs in production, negative manifestations in the distribution and transport, serious imbalance in the economy. In general, the living conditions in the countryside are stable, but there are many difficulties for workers, employees and cadres, especially in the administration.

"The socio-economic situation of our country is going to improve. The prospects for the revolutionary working class are bright" says the newspaper which calls all the Party, Army and people to continue their efforts to improve the socio-economic situation in 1983, contributing to the construction and defence of the socialist state.

3. SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1982,

According to preliminary data, in 1982, Vietnam's economy made significant progress in all sectors, especially agriculture.

1) Agriculture :

- Total output of food staples into paddies equivalent 16.2 million tonnes, (1.2 million tonnes over 1981 and 200,000 tonnes over target).

- Total rice output 13,78 million tonnes, (780,000 tonnes over target).

- Livestock :

Pigs : 10.780 million head, (80% of target, 2.7% over 1981 figure).

Buffalo : 2.445 million head, (1.4% over target, 2.7% over 1981 figure).

Cattle : 1.994 million head, (9.7% over 1981).

2) Industry :

- The output value of industry (including small industry and handicrafts) has made significant progress and it is better than that of 1980.

- Capital construction : many major projects have started production : Vinh Phu Paper Mill, Nha Trang Fibre Factory, etc... The Hoa Binh Hydraulic power station, The Pha Lai thermo-electric station and the Thang Long Bridge have been largely completed.

- Small industry and handicrafts : total output value 5,6 billion dong (8,7% over plan, 33% over 1981), Export value 80% over 1982 target. More than 1000 new items in production, 30,000 jobs created.

3) Fishing : sea products 480,000 tonnes (8,6% over target).

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS 1983 STATE PLAN

The National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam adopted the 1983 State Plan with the following main targets :

- The output value of industry (including small industries and handicrafts) to increase by 10 per cent over 1982.

- The output value of agriculture to increase by nine per cent over 1982
- Total state investments in capital construction to increase by 19 per cent over 1982.
- Goods freight traffic in the country to increase by nine per cent in terms of tonnes and 16 per cent in terms of tonne/kilometre over 1982.
- Export value to increase by 51 per cent over 1982
- Total food output (in terms of rice equivalent) : 17 million tonnes.
- Food procurement by the state : 3,6 million tonnes.
- Area under afforestation programme : 55,000 hectares
- Pigs : 11.6 Million
- Oxen and buffaloes : 4.46 million,
- Electricity : 4.37 billion Kwh.
- Coal : 6.5 million tonnes
- Cement : 1 - 1.2 million tonnes
- Timber : 1.4 million cubic metres.
- Textiles : 260 million metres
- Paper : 50 thousand tonnes
- Sugar : 238 thousand tonnes.
- Fish : 640 thousand tonnes (in which sea fish 450 thousand tonnes).
- Enrolment of general schools in 1983-1984 academic year 12.269 million.
- Enrolment of technical and vocational schools : 108,000
- Area of industrial plants 875.000 hectares.
- Hospital beds : 194,600
- Total value of retail sales on the organized market to increase by 11 per cent over 1982.

4. SOME FIGURES ON THE SOVIET UNION'S GENEROUS AND SELFLESS ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS,

Ever increasing,

In July 1955, a grant aid agreement was reached between the Soviet Union and Vietnam.

By the end of Vietnam's first Five-Year Plan (1961-1965), many major projects, the first fruits of the Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation were put to use, such as the Hanoi Engineering Factory, the Uong Bi Power Station, the Lao Cai Apatite Mine, the Lam Thao Super-phosphate Mill, the Tinh Tuc Tin Plant, etc.

During the resistance against the U.S war of destruction in the North of the country, not only did the Soviet Union send us a great quantity of military

assistance, but a lot of important projects were built with Soviet aid like the Thac Ba Hydro-electric Power Station, the enterprise for the manufacture and repair of mine equipment, pipelines, vehicle repairing shops, etc.

Since 1975, with the invaluable and effective aid by the U.S., 139 economic projects have been put into operation in Vietnam.

Significantly, the signing of the Soviet-Vietnam Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in 1978 has marked a new stage of development in the close relationship between the two countries, furthering the interests of both peoples and of peace and cooperation throughout the world.

When the Beijing reactionaries launched a war against the Vietnamese people in 1979, a large quantity of food, medicines, building materials and a defence equipment were quickly sent to Vietnam by the S.U. and other socialist countries. The S.U. is also helping Vietnam complete the construction of the Thang Long Bridge abandoned by China and restore and enlarge the Tinh Tuc Tin Mine which the Chinese aggressors had destroyed.

Quadrupled in five years,

In 1981, many new agreements on economic and technical cooperation were reached, under which Soviet economic and technical aid to Vietnam during 1981-85 will be quadrupled in comparison with 1976-80. These will also be the basic completion of the Pha Lai 640,000 Kw thermo-electric power station, the continuation of the construction of the Hoa Binh Hydro-electric project (with an eventual capacity of 1.92 million Kw), a factory which will annually produce diesel engines to a total capacity of 100,000 hp., and the extension of the Cam Pha engineering Plant (with an eventual annual capacity 32,000 tonnes of products), etc.

On 19th June, 1981, the two countries agreed to set up a joint venture for geological exploration and drilling for oil on the continental shelf of Vietnam.

The S.U. has also supplied Vietnam with agricultural machinery and fertilizer. Bilateral cooperation has been developed in producing cotton, rubber, coffee, tea, forestry, etc.

The volume of trade between Vietnam and the S.U. during the period of 1976-80 grew from 196.1 million roubles to 612.4 million roubles (i.e. more than trebled).

Under agreements and protocols on scientific, cultural and labour cooperation, tens of thousands of Soviet specialists have come to Vietnam to work in various establishments where they train Vietnamese workers and managers. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese students, apprentices, technicians and managers have gone to the S.U. to study and are becoming the main forces in the national economy./.

5. NOTE OF VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER TO THE
FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES,

His Excellency,

The forth coming Seventh Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned countries to be held in New Delhi is an important event of our Movement. As a member of the Movement the Socialist Republic of Vietnam considers it a duty to present a number of the views so as to contribute to the success of the Conference.

1. During the past three years since the Sixth Summit Conference in Havana, the Non-Aligned Movement overcoming the most serious difficulties and trials, has become a powerful force with an increasingly important position and a weighted share in the international life. This is due to the fact that our Movement has always preserved its objectives, maintained its solidarity and unity. This Summit Conference, therefore, should concentrate every effort on the questions concerning the common struggle for peace, independence and sovereignty of nations, for a new, just and equitable economic order and should not allow the differences and disputes between members of the Movement to mislead the common struggle against imperialism.

2. The question of Kampuchea and that of peace and stability in South East Asia are the differences between the two groups of South East Asian countries, the ASEAN and the Indochinese. Public opinion has increasingly realised that only dialogues and agreements reached between these two groups of countries on the basis of respect for the legitimate interests of both sides can solve the problems of South East Asia.

Emerging over the past one year and more, the trend of dialogues between the two groups is now developing. World opinion also endorses and encourages the dialogues between the ASEAN and Indochina. Our Non-Aligned Movement should promote and encourage it as well as create a favourable climate to help both sides undertake dialogues and negotiations as has been clearly pointed out by the Movement's resolutions over the past several years, and, at

the same time, to resolutely get rid of all schemes of causing opposition and undermining these dialogues and negotiations.

3. For the time being, there is a question of the seat of Kampuchea in the Non-Aligned Movement. Since 1979, in the views of the Non-Aligned countries, there has been no possibility of solving this problem. The forthcoming Summit Conference also may not be able to solve it.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam now as before holds that the seat of Kampuchea in the Non-Aligned Movement belongs to the People's Republic of Kampuchea; The genocidal Polpot clique and the genocidal clique in the guise of tripartite coalition government of Kampuchea headed by Sihanouk is just an exile group who are opposing the rebirth of the Kampuchean people and who can exist only with the aid from the imperialists and foreign reactionary forces. They represent nobody and have completely no footing in the Non-Aligned Movement.

With a view to contributing to the success of the 7th Summit Conference, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with the full sense of responsibility as a member of the movement, completely respect the 6th Summit Conference Resolution and leaves the question of the representation of Kampuchea to be considered and decided by the 7th Summit Conference of the Heads of States or governments of the Non-Aligned countries. But there are at present manoeuvres and schemes being made by some people to impose their intentions on the Conference.

4. In raising the question of inviting Sihanouk to come to New Delhi to address the 7th Summit Conference in the capacity of "a founder" of the Non-Aligned Movement, some people have deliberately made confusion between the founders of the Non-Aligned Movement and those who took part in the first Summit Conference of the Movement. They are : late Prime Minister Nehru, late President Sukarno, late President Nkruma, late President Tito and late President Nasser.

If invitation were extended to the Heads of States or Government taking part in the 1st Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned

Movement to attend the 7th Summit, it would be sent to the 25 people who took part in the 1st Summit among them several were dead, some are still holding important posts of the State and some others are taking side with the opposition forces or opposing the present governments in the countries.

Raising the question of inviting Sihanouk or anyone among the 25 people mentioned above at the 7th Summit will set a dangerous precedent for the Movement and can be utilized to oppose the legitimate government and grossly interfere in the internal affairs of the Non-Aligned states.

This act will obviously undermine the fundamental principles of the Movement and inevitably ~~show~~ deep division in the Movement. It is necessary to point out that up to now there has not been any precedent of inviting the founders to participate in the Summit Conference, the capacity of the founders or of any delegate attending the Conference is closely linked with state or nation they represent. In the 3rd Summit Conference held in Lusaka in 1970, Sihanouk himself was not permitted to take part because of the opposition by several countries, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore included. The reason was that after the coup d'Etat led by Lon Nol, Sihanouk could no longer controlled the capital Phnom Penh and the Kampuchean territory.

5. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam wishes that with their wisdom and goodwill, the heads of states or governments of the Non-Aligned countries will resolutely foil all the schemes and manoeuvres aimed at bringing the disguised ~~gambit~~ clique to the Conference to cause troubles and deadlock to the Movement and believes that the 7th Summit Conference will achieve fine success.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey to His Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

Hanoi, 3rd December 1982

NGUYEN CO THACH
Foreign Minister of the
Socialist Republic of Viet-Nam.

6. KAMPUCHEA AND REPRESENTATION IN NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT,

Hanoi, VNA, 31 December, 1982 - The vociferous campaign waged by the Chinese expansionists and the ruling circles in the ASEAN countries in an attempt to bring Sihanouk to the 7th Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement as a "founder" of the Movement cannot mislead public opinion, says the paper "Kampuchea" in a commentary.

The three Khmer reactionary groups and their masters, the paper remarks, have been dealt a heavy blow by the decision taken by India to leave the Kampuchean seat vacant as agreed by the 6th Summit Conference resolution. This is a just and appropriate decision. India, an important state of the Non-Aligned Movement, has been pursuing an independent foreign policy and adhering to the principles of the Movement. The decision of India constitutes a serious sanction and a warning against the interference by international reactionaries, especially China and Thailand who are not even members of the Movement. The central organ of the United Front for the construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland affirms that Sihanouk, far from being a founder of the Movement, was only one of the 25 people taking part in the first Non-Aligned Summit.

The paper stresses that because Sihanouk has ranged himself with the PolPot butchers, in the guise of the so-called "Coalition Government of the Democratic Kampuchea", he is in no way qualified to represent the Kampuchean people at this Conference.

The Government of President Heng Samrin, elected by the Kampuchean people, is fully qualified to represent them in the Non-Aligned Movement as well as in other international organizations. However, the People's Republic of Kampuchea respects the resolutions of the Sixth Summit in Havana and fully agrees with India's position.

7. INDIA'S CORRECT DECISION,

Hanoi, VNA December 20 - Nhan Dan today says India's decision not to invite Kampuchea to the coming Seventh Non-Aligned Summit in New Delhi is a correct one which helps to maintain the unity and principles of the Non-Aligned Movement.

It notes that the Chinese authorities and ultra rightist forces in certain countries are noisily campaigning for Sihanouk's presence at the summit. One of Beijing's dark designs is to enable the Polpot butchers, which were expelled from the movement three years ago, to infiltrate it. Sihanouk instrument of international reaction, is acting as a front for the genocidal Polpot clique to maintain its seat in the United Nations and other organizations. He is in the so-called tripartite coalition government, which can neither represent the Kampuchean people nor have any place in Kampuchea.

"Seeing that the monstrous coalition government will not be accepted, international reactionary forces argue that Sihanouk may attend the Summit as one of the founders of the movement. But it is known that the movement has officially recognized only five founders : the late Prime Minister J. Nehru and late presidents Sukarno, K. Nkruma, J.B. Tito and G.A. Nasser. Sihanouk's supporters try to blur all initial participants. Moreover, the movement has never invited any founders to its summits.

International reactionary forces try to create a dangerous antecedent in order to split the movement and divert it from its fundamental objectives, namely the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism...

The paper stresses that the Indian government's decision :

"Fully conforms to the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement" and that the right to represent Kampuchea in the Non-Aligned Movement belongs to the government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea headed by President Heng Samrin, elected by the Kampuchean people as their sole authentic and legitimate representative. This government, has the confidence of the entire Kampuchean people, it has established complete territorial control and is efficiently handling all affairs of the country.

"To contribute to the success of the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit, Vietnam, as a responsible member, fully respects the Sixth Summits Resolution allowing the heads of States and governments of Non-Aligned countries to decide at the Seventh Summit the Representation of Kampuchea".

"Just public opinion believes that the Non-Aligned Movement, in its wisdom and with responsibility, will foil all plots of using the disguised genocidal clique to foment trouble, to sow discord and undermine the summit".

8. SLANDEROUS INFORMATION REFUTED,

On December 14th 1982, A.F.P. reported that there were rumours in the diplomatic circles in the capital of China, that Vietnam had sent a letter to Sihanouk, and the Vietnamese Foreign Minister had made a statement about the possibility of Sihanouk's participation in future elections in Kampuchea. The Vietnam News Agency is authorized to declare :

1. This information is completely baseless.
2. The consistent position of Vietnam is that the internal affairs of Kampuchea are subject to the sovereignty of this country.
3. Vietnam totally supports the Declaration made by the Kampuchean Foreign Minister Hun Sen on 13th September 1982.

9. KAMPUCHEA, A MIRACULOUS REBIRTH,

A glorious turning point in the history of Kampuchea was marked on 7th January 1979. Facing genocide and the loss of their country, the Kampuchean people rose up to overthrow the vicious Polpot clique who, with Beijing's active support had terrorized the country since 1975. In just over three years, with the whole-hearted support of people throughout the world, the Kampuchean people have made a big recovery, a miraculous rebirth. The country has achieved great successes in the political, economic and security fields.

The Kampuchean people have rebuilt, the fabric society with true democracy and equality. Two years after liberation, Kampucheans for the first-time in their lives, went to the ballot box. This first general election was held on 1st May, 1981. The first session of the new National Assembly has unanimously adopted the new constitution which truly brought the long awaited freedom to the Kampuchean people.

The most urgent task of the new government and the Kampuchean people since Liberation was to steer the nation clear away from the danger of starvation, the legacy of the Polpot clique . The country had made a great effort in reclaiming cultivated land, from 800,000 hectares in 1979 to 1,470,000 hectares in 1981. In the first half of 1982, the total output of food staples reached 256,000 tonnes (twice the 1981 figure), the number of buffaloes increased by 1.2%; cattle by 3.8% and pigs twice the figure of 1981. Fishing in 1981-1982 reached 70,000 tonnes, three times the figure of 1979-1980.

Under PolPot's rule, industry was practically destroyed. After liberation, 40 plants were restored in 1979. By 1980, the number had increased by a third, to reach 60. Transportation and communication were also restored, highways, railways and waterways were put into use again. Postal and telephone services has been restored, even the Riel, the Kampuchean currency had found its way to help in the rebirth of the country.

With the revival of agriculture and industry and social services, social welfare had come back and blossomed. In the academic year of 1981-1982, the enrolment of general schools reached 1.5 million with 38,600 teachers. Health-care has a big share too. By 1981, the numbers of nurses and midwives reached 10,000 , whereas at liberation there were only 69 who had survived Polpot's axes.

With the situation within Kampuchea gradually stabilized, life has got back to normal. The People's Republic of Kampuchea has enjoyed increasing prestige throughout the world. It has been recognized by more than 30 countries and two national liberation movements. Many delegations from Kampuchea were warmly received in foreign countries and at international conferences. Kampuchea once again has opened wide its hands to welcome foreign visitors to Angkor Wats, symbols of the country's historic greatness.

10. MEETING OF INDOCHINESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTERS,

The deputy Foreign Ministers : Vo Dong Giang of Vietnam, Kamphay Bupha of Laos and Kong Korm of Kampuchea met from 9 to 10 December in Vientiane to prepare for the coming summit conference of the Indochinese countries which will take place this spring.

The Ambassadors of Vietnam and Kampuchea in Vientiane, Nguyen Xuan and Neou Samon respectively, as well as high ranking officials of the Foreign Ministries and the Planning Committees of the three Indochinese countries also took part in this preparatory meeting which also reviewed the preparations and discussed the questions to be submitted to the 7th Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the three Indochinese countries. This will take place in Phnom Penh.

11. PRESS COMMUNIQUE ON THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE MEKONG COMMITTEES OF THE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES,

Hanoi, VNA, 26 December 1982 - A meeting of the National Committees on the Mekong river of Kampuchean, Vietnam and Laos was held in Ho Chi Minh City from the 16th to the 17th December, 1982. At the same time, a seminar on the meteorology and hydrology of the three countries also took place.

In a press communique issued recently, the Meeting assessed that the value of the hydraulic resources of the Mekong, particularly of the main stream and the great tributaries, is of important significance for the national and regional development. The Meeting also had a discussion on the relations between the riverain countries in this research in order to guarantee not only the interests of each country but also the common interests of all, and at the same time to safeguard the long-term interests of the three Indochinese countries.

The Meeting reaffirmed that no construction of any project on the main stream will be carried out as long as the People's Republic of Kampuchea has not had a legitimate place in the International Committee on the Mekong river.

The three delegations agreed that the Sixth Meeting of the three National Committee on the Mekong river will be held in Vientiane in 1983./.