

EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
PRESS AND INFORMATION SECTION

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I/- MIKHAIL GORBACHOV'S STATEMENT
WHOLLY SUPPORTED BY THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE.

On January 21, 1986 Comrade TRUONG CHINH, member of the Politburo of the CPVOC and Chairman of the State Council of Vietnam has received Comrade P.N. TCHAPLINE, Ambassador of the USSR in Vietnam. On behalf of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Communist Party, the State Council and the people of Vietnam, he stated :

"The 15 January Statement by the General Secretary of the CPSU, comrade MIKHAIL GORBACHOV regarding an overall programme for the total elimination of the nuclear arsenals in the next 15 years illustrates the noble sense of responsibility of the USSR before mankind destiny, the present and future generations as well. This important peace initiative of the USSR offers to mankind great hope for their future : a world without nuclear weapons in which the whole mankind will be definitely free from nuclear catastrophe. The vast peace programme gives an immense impetus to the world people's struggle for peace and security.

The Statement of Comrade MIKHAIL GORBACHOV meets the ardent aspirations of the peoples in South-East Asia where the imperialist and reactionary forces have carried out, during the last 40 years, the longest and bloodiest wars of aggression. The noble objective of the USSR regarding peace and security in Asia is also that of the peoples in the world in general and of the Asian peoples in particular.

Together with progressive mankind, the people of Vietnam wholeheartedly welcomes and wholly supports the very important statement of Comrade MIKHAIL GORBACHOV. It pledges to contribute an active part to the struggle for total elimination of nuclear weapons and for the maintenance of lasting peace in our planet and that of security of all nations."

II/- COMMUNIQUE OF THE TWELFTH CONFERENCE
OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF KAMPUCHEA, LAOS AND VIETNAM.

The twelfth Conference of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was held from January 23rd to 24th, 1986 in Vientiane, capital of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

1- The conference holds the view that 1985 has started a new phase in the evolution of the situation in the world as well as in South-East Asia and Asia and the Pacific owing to the growth of the peace and revolutionary forces. In spite of the obstacles created by the confrontationist forces, dialogue and peaceful coexistence form a powerful, irresistible trend which opens new possibilities of improving the international and regional conjuncture.

2- The conference hails the new achievements registered by the three Indochinese countries, their growth and cohesion as well as their solidarity with the Soviet Union and the socialist countries. The conference appreciates highly the revolutionary gains of the Lao People's Democratic Republic as manifested in the impressive celebration of its Tenth Founding Anniversary which showed the determination of the Lao People to forge ahead towards new victories in socialist defence and construction. The conference is heartened by the success of the Fifth Congress of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea which illustrates the remarkable maturation of the Kampuchean people in defending and building the new Kampuchea. The People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam reiterate that the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer forces will continue during 1986 and will be completed by 1990 as previously stated.

3- Having been victims of the longest and most bloody wars the three Indochinese peoples ardently desire peace and an early end to the undeclared war against the Kampuchean people so as to soon reach a political solution to the question of Kampuchea and to that of peace and stability in South-East Asia. In this spirit, the conference reaffirms the five-point position and the proposals mentioned in the communiques of the Tenth and Eleventh Conferences of the Foreign Ministers of the three Indochinese countries. In its view, two aspects of a political solution to the Kampuchea question have to be distinguished: the internal and the international.

A/ The internal affairs of Kampuchea must be settled by the Kampuchean people themselves without external interference. The People's Republic of Kampuchea declares itself prepared to enter talks with opposition Khmer individuals or groups to achieve national reconciliation on the basis of the removal of the Pol Pot clique and the holding of free general elections following the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer forces from Kampuchea. The People's Republic of Kampuchea welcomes all efforts at mediation to bring about such talks.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam fully support the just position and good-will of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

B/ The settlement of the international aspect of the Kampuchea question would imply an agreement on the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer forces along with the cessation of all material and military aid to the Pol Pot clique

and other reactionary Khmer forces, of the utilization by the latter of Thai territory as sanctuary, of all intervention from outside in the internal affairs of Kampuchean as well as of all military hostilities by foreign countries against the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Concurrently with a peaceful solution to the Kampuchea question a stable and lasting peace in the region has to be ensured, an agreement should be reached on the setting up of a zone of peace and stability in South-East Asia where in states with different social systems would coexist peacefully on the basis of the principles mentioned in the Declarations of Bandung in 1955, Kuala Lumpur in 1971, of Bali in 1976 and in the declaration of the three Indochinese countries put forth by the Lao Foreign Minister in 1981 before the General Assembly of the United Nations and an end must be put to foreign aggression, intervention and threat against the countries in the region.

4- The conference appreciates highly the meetings held in 1985 between the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Vietnam representing the two groups of countries in the region as well as the meeting of the former's working groups which have thus started a new phase in the process of dialogue aimed at settling the question of peace and stability in South-East Asia and that of Kampuchea. These meetings have helped both sides compare their respective positions, increase their mutual understanding and trust and gradually reduce their divergences of views. The conference is convinced that with good-will from both sides, the coming meetings between the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Vietnam as well as the dialogues to come between the Indochinese countries and the other ASEAN countries will strongly foster this process and will allow agreements to be reached on an equal footing and in keeping with the interests of the states of the region and with that of peace in Asia and the world.

The three Indochinese countries wish and are prepared to negotiate with Thailand in order to settle substantive problems arising from their mutual relations on the basis of peaceful coexistence. The restoration and consolidation of good-neighbourly relations between the three Indochinese states and Thailand would constitute an extremely important factor for peace and stability in South-East Asia.

The conference appreciates highly the efforts and the good-will of the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic with regard to questions pertaining to its relations with the Kingdom of Thailand and hopes that the proposal of the Lao Government concerning governmental level negotiations will be carefully studied by the Thai Government.

5- The People's Republic of Kampuchea is also prepared to negotiate on the repatriation of Kampuchean refugees living at present in Thailand. Meanwhile, the refugee camps should be transferred away from the Thai-Kampuchean border and placed altogether under the control of the humanitarian organizations. Reactionary Khmer forces should be denied any control over these camps and any utilization of the latter for political and military purpose. All armed elements should be expelled from the camps.

Similarly the People's Republic of Kampuchea is prepared to negotiate directly or indirectly with the Thai authorities with a view to settling the problem of Thai soldiers and civilians captured on Kampuchean territory.

6- The conference welcomes the new progress in the cooperation between the Lao and the Vietnamese Governments and the U.S. Administration on the search for the Americans missing in action. The People's Republic of Kampuchea reaffirms its policy whereby it is prepared to cooperate with the U.S. on this

issue. Regrettably, until the present, the American side has manifested no interest in this humanitarian question.

7- The three Indochinese peoples invariably treasure their time-honoured friendship with the Chinese peoples and look forward to its early restoration. Relations of friendship and cooperation between Kampuchea, Laos and Vietnam, and the People's Republic of China would constitute an extremely important factor to ensure peace and stability in South East Asia, Asia. The conference is of the view that only through negotiations can differences among the parties concerned be solved. In this spirit the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Lao People's Democratic Republic fully support the efforts undertaken by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to resume without any prerequisite the talks between China and Vietnam with a view of normalizing the relations for the interest of both peoples and of peace in South-East Asia, Asia and the world.

8- The conference considers that in spite of the serious divergences of views that remain between the Soviet Union and the United States, the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Geneva has created new possibilities of improving the international atmosphere, of promoting efforts towards nuclear disarmament and of preventing the arms race from spreading into outer space. The conference extends its total support to the principled position and the important initiatives set forth by the Soviet Union in the talks with the U.S. especially the historic declaration of 15 January 1986 by the Secretary General of the Soviet Communist Party Mr. M.S. Gorbachov, regarding an overall programme for the total elimination of nuclear weapons from now to the year 2000 which opens before humanity the prospect of being forever freed from the nightmare of a nuclear catastrophe that has haunted man for the last forty years.

The conference appraises highly the results of the Non-Aligned Foreign Ministerial Conference in Luanda and declares that the three Indochinese states will do their utmost to contribute to the success of the Non-Aligned Foreign Ministerial Conference to be held in New Delhi in April 1986 and of the Eighth Non-Aligned Summit to be held in Harare in August 1986 to strengthen the solidarity among Non-Aligned countries in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and apartheid for peace, national independence and a new international economic order./-

III/- NINTH PLENUM OF THE FIFTH CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM.

In mid-December 1985, the 9th Plenum of the 5th Central Committee of the CPV met to discuss the orientation and tasks of the State Plan for 1986.

The Plenum reviewed the implementation of the 1985 Plan. The year 1985 marked an advance in the leadership and operational guidance given by our Party and State with regard to the implementation of the resolutions of the 6th, 7th and 8th Plenums. Although our economy suffered from many serious imbalances and in spite of typhoons, floods and repeated spells of drought, it recorded important achievements.

Food output was greater than in 1984 in spite of the damage done by natural calamities. Progress was recorded in animal husbandry, industrial crops, forestry and agriculture. Industrial output value increased by 7.4% (8.5% for the State sector). Transportation of key commodities was ensured. A number of capital

construction projects were progressing, or were commissioned, on schedule. Good results were obtained in the procurement by the State of many kinds of products. In the South, the collectivization of agriculture was completed in the main. The socialist transformation of private industry and trade and market control were given a strong push. Commendable efforts were made in science and technology, education, public health, social affairs, culture, the arts, sports and physical culture, information. Many enterprises and districts correctly implemented the resolutions of the 6th, 7th and 8th Plenums and worked out more effective methods of work.

However, many shortcomings remained. Industrial and agricultural production was neither stable nor steady yet ; productivity, product quality and economic efficiency remained low ; the production of a number of key commodities failed to increase. The value of exports increased but slowly. The socialist transformation of private industry and trade was not vigorous enough. Difficulties remained in the circulation and distribution of goods.

The 9th Plenum of the Party Central Committee laid down tasks for socio-economic planning in 1986, the starting year of the 1986-1990 Five-Year Plan, which is aimed at bringing about stability in the socio-economic situation and creating the premises for future development.

The 1986 Plan provides for the implementation of the most important tasks and the satisfaction of the most important needs ; it will bring about drastic changes in the mechanism of socio-economic management, the utilization of manpower, land and the existing material-technical infrastructure. Agriculture remains at the forefront. Quick progress is to be achieved in the production of food grain and other foodstuffs, the planting of industrial crops, the production of consumer and export goods, key branches of heavy industry serving agriculture, consumer-goods industry, and transport and communications. A boost is to be given to export and our obligations to foreign countries must be fulfilled.

The Plenum gave a number of directives concerning the renovation of planning, the strengthening of operational guidance and supervision, and the impulse to be given to the revolutionary movement of the working people.

Organization is to be consolidated ; personnel placed in suitable positions ; the style of work improved. These are important measures aimed at the renovation of economic management.

The 9th Plenum of the Party Central Committee decided to convene the 6th Party Congress in late 1986.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1985 STATE PLAN AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC TASKS FOR 1986.

From 26 to 28 December 1985, the 7th National Assembly held its 10th Session in Hanoi. It discussed the Report of the Council of Ministers on the implementation of the State Plan and State budget for 1985, passed the State Plan and State budget for 1986, and made a number of other important decisions.

Below are excerpts from the Report of the Council of Ministers, dealing with the implementation of the 1985 State Plan and the socio-economic tasks for 1986.

NEW ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROCESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE 1985 STATE PLAN.

The year 1985 marked great efforts made by entire Vietnamese people in the cause of national construction and defence. While our people have firmly defended our northern frontiers against the encroachments of Beijing troops, the 1985 State Plan was fulfilled with a number of new achievements and progress.

AGRICULTURE :

Food grain : Despite being badly affected by successive natural calamities, food grain production experienced an increase of 400,000 tonnes compared with 1984, reaching 18.2 million tonnes.

Industrial crops : Perennial industrial crops, 16% increase ; short growth industrial crops, 5% increase.

Animal husbandry : Oxen and buffaloes, increased by 7.6% and 2% respectively ; pigs by 3.7% ; and poultry to a great extent.

Fishery : Exceeding the target with an increase in fish catch by 5.3% ; sea products' export by 15%.

Forest planting : Reached 127,000 Ha, i.e. 18,000 Ha over the target, an increase of 3%.

INDUSTRY :

In spite of difficulties in energy, raw material and spare parts, many products experienced an increase :

Electricity	+ 6%.
Steel	+ 8.5%.
Electrical motors	+10%.
Phosphatic fertilizer	+ 2%.
Cement	+ 9%.
Sugar	+12%., etc...

Industrial production in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City is developing and has shown progress.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS :

Increase of the volume of transport by 3% compared with 1984.

EXPORT TURN-OVER increased to a great extent.

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION had been concentrated on main targets of the economy and on key projects. As a result a number of projects have been completed as planned.

REDISTRIBUTION OF MANPOWER AND POPULATION : The number of people going to work in the new economic zones exceeded the 1985 target with an increase of 11% compared with 1984.

Commencable efforts have been made in the application of science and technology to production and to educational, cultural and health care services.

AGRICULTURAL COLLECTIVIZATION in the southern provinces has been completed in the main, involving 87.2% of the peasant households and 85% of the cropland area.

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENTS OF THE 1981-1985 FIVE YEAR PLAN :

With the fulfillment of the 1985 plan, the 1981-1985 five-year plan was accomplished. Comparing with the 1980 achievements, in 1985 many products increased between 1.5 to 2 times such as industrial crops' area, oxen, buffaloes breeding, fishery, sugar, cigarettes, textile, paper, electricity, cement etc. The export value in five years also increased twofold compared with the 1976-1980 five-year plan.

- The remarkable achievement is in food production, from 14.4 million tonnes in 1980 to 18.2 million tonnes in 1985. Despite difficult conditions such as shortage of material, natural calamities etc... every year there was an increase of one million tonnes of food-grain .

- With the basic accomplishment in agricultural collectivisation in South Vietnam and the socialist transformation in relation to private economic sectors, the socialist relation of production has been set up in all economic sectors and throughout the country.

- Hundreds of projects, big and small, which were put into practice by the joint effort of the state and people have strengthened the national economic potential and provided many important products.

- The living standards of the people, in general, have been improved and gradually... stabilized. Millions of people in cities and towns were given jobs. The work of education, science and technology, culture and health services have increasingly been developed.

All achievements and progress which have been made, originated from the great efforts of the people, the fighters, of all cadres throughout the country. They came from the great and effective support and cooperation of the USSR and other brotherly countries, from the alliance of the three Indochinese countries and from the support and assistance of all progressive people the world over. These achievements and progress have shown the talent of our people. They have also shown that the 1981-1985 targets put forth by 5th Party's Congress and the Resolutions of the Central Committee have entirely conformed to the life of our nation.

MAIN TARGETS FOR THE 1986 SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATE PLAN :

The Gross National Product : 7.9% increase over 1985.

The Gross Industrial Product Value : 8.8% increase over 1985.

Total State investment in Capital Construction : 20 billion Dong (Vietnamese Currency).

Total Volume of goods Transported in the Country : 6% increase in tonnage and 5.4% increase in tonne/Km.

Value of Export : 14% increase.

Food Grain Production : 20 million tonnes (paddy and equivalent).

State Procurement of Food : 9% increase.

Area for Industrial Crops : 12% increase.

Oxen and Buffaloes : 7.2% increase.

Forest Planting Acreage : 120.000 Ha.

Labour Force to New Economic Zones : 650.000 people.

Electricity output : 12% increase.

Washed Coal : 11% increase.

Phosphatic Fertilizers : 6% increase.

Cement : 25% increase.

Textile : 375 million metres.

Paper : 9% increase.

Sugar : 5.5% increase.

Enrolment at University and Higher Schools : 6% increase ; at Secondary Vocational education : 5% increase.

Number of General-Education Pupils at the Start of the School Year : 13.3 million.

Book Publication : 5% increase.

Population Growth Rate : 1.9%.

A GOOD START FOR THE NEW YEAR :

THE SECOND DAMMING OF THE DA RIVER (The Black River).

On the 9th of January 1986, the Da river southwest of Hanoi, has its course completely blocked to enable the completion of the main dam at the Hoa Binh hydro-power plant, exactly three years after the first damming (January 12, 1983). But the second event is more complete and calls for greater efforts from Soviet and Vietnamese workers and experts at the construction site.

Following the first event, the Da river had its flow temporarily diverted into a canal on its right side. While the main dam has not yet been raised high enough to hold a billion cubic metres of water from the reservoir, and the underground tunnels leading water to the turbine-room have not yet been completed. The water of the Da river is turned into two underground discharge tunnels complete with an intricate system of regulating sluice gates.

This has been done in conjunction with laying of concrete at the diversion walls close to the discharge tunnel No.1, the installation of valve gates, the continued building of the main dam, the clearing of the embankments at the diversion canals.

In 1985 the construction site achieved a volume of work at the main installations from 1.5 to 5 times as much as in 1984 : moving nearly 9 million cubic of concrete and moving nearly 200.000 cubic metres of rock from the tunnel.

In the current damming of the Da river, our workers have to complete the laying of concrete at the walls and foundations of the discharge tunnel N.2 in order to receive the flow of the Da River early this month, build 110 metres of the foundation of the tunnel No.1 and clear 400.000 cubic metres of earth and rock at the two embankments.

Much remains to be done for the trial operation of the first generator in late 1987. However, this event is a curtain-raiser for 1986, the year which will witness the largest amount of work in the building of this biggest power plant in Vietnam so far.

RECOVERY IN BINH TRI THIEN FOLLOWING DAMAGE BY TYPHOONS.

After suffering heavy losses of life and property from Typhoons Nos. 7 and 8 this year, Binh Tri Thien province has taken urgent measures to overcome them, stabilize the people's living conditions, and rehabilitate the economy. Relief supplies have been stored and distributed; emergency health care dispensed to injured and sick people; damaged houses, depots, schools and hospitals repaired. Inventories have been made of the available draught force, farm implements, seeds, animals, fertilizers, and plans have been made to distribute them to the various districts to help them boost preparations for the coming winter-spring cultivation campaign. Irrigation and drainage facilities as well as dykes against the invasion of salt water have been repaired. A mobilization campaign has been launched among the whole people, including factory workers, school students and members of the armed forces, to plant every inch of land available with short-growth food crops and vegetables.

A proper orientation has been determined for production and the building of material and technical bases in 1986. Decisions have been taken with regard to the crops and animals to be raised and the times of planting in anticipation of typhoons and floods. Investments are earmarked for aquaculture and the growing of crops with a view to export.

IV/- ON THE OCCASION OF THE 7TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING DAY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA.

BIG SUCCESSES OF KAMPUCHEAN REVOLUTION.

The great successes recorded by the Kampuchean people and army in 1985 have driven the enemy into a position of unavoidable complete defeat. With their aggressive and reactionary nature, however, the Chinese expansionists and their henchmen have not given up their scheme of sabotage against the Kampuchean revolution. They still nurture the ambition to revive and reinvigorate the Khmer reactionary groups to continue with their sabotage activities against the Kampuchean revolution and change the situation in their favour. But, how can the Khmer reactionaries who have sustained defeats in the dry season and yet heavier setbacks in the wet monsoon and are trying hard to recover, carry out this ambitious plan of their master? The Beijing expansionist ruling circles, working hand in glove with the US imperialists and the ultra-rightists in the Thai administration, are stepping up tricky moves in the diplomatic field to deceive public opinion, and distort the three Indochinese countries' goodwill and correct policies aimed at building Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, cooperation and friendship.

They are trying to turn to account the so-called "Kampuchea question",

time and again urging the United Nations to adopt erroneous resolutions on Kampuchea, in an attempt to force the Kampuchean people to accept the unreasonable solutions put forward by them. But how can they, with their diplomatic manoeuvres, achieve what they fail to gain on the battlefields after trying by all means, for six years, to destroy the Kampuchean revolution?

The Kampuchean situation is irreversible and it is evolving in the direction of defeat for the enemy, ever greater successes and total victory for the Kampuchean revolution. It can be said that today no (no) cruel force can change this situation.

Because the Kampuchean revolution is a just cause whose light radiates ever more brilliantly.

The Kampuchean revolution, under the leadership of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, a Marxist-Leninist Party absolutely loyal to the interests of the Fatherland and the Kampuchean working people, is holding aloft of banner of genuine patriotism and proletarian internationalism, and following a correct political, military and operational line which have recently been reinforced by the resolutions of the 5th PPRK congress.

The present People's Republic of Kampuchea has won the people's confidence and is built and controlled by them. The new system, firmly relying on the strength of the mastership of seven million Kampuchean people, is controlling the entire land of Kampuchea from the frontiers to the inland, from the cities to the countryside, from the sea to the airspace which are linked with those of fraternal Vietnam and Laos.

The Kampuchean revolution has a firm bulwark—the Kampuchea-Vietnam unity and alliance, and the special alliance of the three Indochinese countries, the solidarity and assistance from the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries, and the support of progressive mankind.

The strength and position of the Kampuchean revolution are prevailing over those of the enemy and continue to grow.

The Kampuchean revolution draws its strength from the correct resolutions of the 5th PPRK Congress which was held in mid-October 1985. The success of the 5th PPRK Congress represented a success of strategic significance of the Kampuchean revolution.

The congress summed up major experiences in the six years of national construction and defence, decided on the policies, tasks and objectives, adopted a five-year socio-economic program from 1986-1990 and elected the new Party Central Committee (fifth legislature). The congress recorded the strides forward made by the PPRK in successfully applying Marxism-Leninism to the practice of the Kampuchean revolution. The revolutionary and scientific resolutions adopted at the congress will keep on shining and leading the Kampuchean people to advance more vigorously, to win ever greater successes in the construction and defence of the Fatherland, to march forward to successfully achieve the strategic objectives of the Kampuchean revolution.

Since the congress, the force of the Kampuchean revolution itself has been growing rapidly, the Kampuchean people are promoting their right of mastership over their country and their own destiny in the strategic alliance of the three Indochinese countries.

These days, the Kampuchean people are entering into a new struggle to carry out the heavy tasks set by the 5th PPRK Congress in anticipation of the

7th anniversary of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. The Kampuchean people are elated at the great achievements they have recorded in the past year, and feel confident in the strength of collective mastership of the seven million Kampucheans in the special alliance with fraternal Vietnam and Laos.

The Kampuchean people fully understand that to win the victories in 1985, namely the victory in both the dry and rainy season offensives, and the success of the 5th PPK Congress, the entire Kampuchean people, and the Vietnamese army volunteers had to overcome innumerable difficulties and endured sacrifices throughout the past six years. The victories in 1985 brought about a new opportunity, and a new strategic conjuncture favourable to the Kampuchean Nation. It is a historic responsibility of the entire Kampuchean Party, people and army to seize the new favourable opportunity, in keeping with the three strategic revolutionary objectives set by the Fifth Party Congress, make all-out efforts in close cooperation with the Vietnamese army volunteers to carry on all-out offensives to deal more bitter defeats on the enemy, make the revolutionary forces stronger, consolidate the Kampuchea-Vietnam alliance, and continue to bring the Kampuchean revolution forward with new steps of development.

STABILITY AND RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN ECONOMY.

Right after the overthrow of the Pol Pot genocidal regime seven years ago, the Kampuchean people started rebuilding the country. In their advance, the Kampuchean people have had to overcome many difficulties: a society in ruins left by the Pol Pot regime, an antiquated backward economy and a multi-faceted war of sabotage waged by hostile forces. However, thanks to their staunch revolutionary traditions, their diligent and creative labour, and the devoted assistance from fraternal countries and friends in the world, the Kampuchean people have reinvigorated their country and recorded brilliant achievements in all fields of activity, making the situation in the country ever more stable.

The revolutionary administration has issued policies and carried out measures to step by step transform the old economy, and develop a new economy with ever-increasing labour productivity and product quality on the basis of collective ownership.

In the countryside, the peasants, now masters of their land, are boosting production, carrying out intensive cultivation, raising productivity and food output. A remarkable achievement has been the elimination of famine. After liberation, the country had to ask for food relief, but now it can produce enough food for home consumption. More than one hundred thousand solidarity-for-production teams have been set up. As a result, agricultural production has been stepped up. The sown area has expanded and output and productivity have gradually increased.

In 1985, the areas under rice total 1.7 million hectares (compared with 770,500 ha in 1979) yielding 2.1 million tonnes of rice (as against 696,850 tonnes in 1979). The average yield is 1.23 tonnes per hectare, even 3 tonnes per hectare in some places as against 0.7 tonnes in 1979. Nearly 1,200 reservoirs and dams, and many irrigation projects have been restored or built anew in various provinces with a view to effectively serving agricultural production.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of hectares are planted with beans of different kinds, more than 200,000 ha with rubber, 2,500 ha with sugarcane, 9,000 ha with tobacco and 500 ha with cotton. Besides, some 60,000 tonnes of

fish are netted. Livestock breeding has been boosted : Now the country has 1.20 million buffaloes and oxen, more than 5.3 million poultry (as against 820,000 in 1979) and more than one million pigs (only 50,770 in 1979).

In industry, in spite of heavy damage, 60 enterprises out of a total of more than 100 have been restored and put back in operation. They have been re-equipped and enlarged and many new ones built. Many small-industry and handicraft enterprises have also been built using home-produced materials to produce consumer goods. Last year, increases in output value have been recorded in many branches of activity : textiles (58%), consumer goods (18%), rubber (2.5 times), compared with the planned targets. Transport and communications have been quickly restored. The shipping agency "KAMSAB" contributes to expanding international cooperation. Trade services handle goods distribution and circulation, thus promoting production and stabilizing the people's living conditions. Foreign-trade relations have been expanded and the volume of goods exchanged increased. The financial and banking departments have contributed actively to the restoration and development of the country's economy.

PHNOM MELAI ★

Deep down the ravine, turfs crumble into whitish dust,
Sang-le bark roll in funnel-shaped tubes,
Shafts of evening sunlight pierce the air,
The broiling heat burns day and night.

Our outpost is perched on a grey mountain flank,
For drinking water, three small tins per day,
For a half-month we had only grilled rice,
Munching orchid leaves to fool our thirst.

Behind me are phoms and soks of the sister country
Where the overflowing Nuot Sut river glitters,
On moon-lit nights, lads and lasses,
Join in love-song repartees from immemorial times.

Farther away-our beloved homeland,
New constructions have sprung up on newly-opened lands,
Bridal couples hand in hand enter the wedding room,
Mothers transplant rice on peaceful fields.

To-morrow, when the frontiers are cleared of aggressors
The Indochina sky recovers its azure, the colour of peace,
We'll return home to till our lands, and
The wooded mountains will regain their primeval coat.

V/- NEWS IN BRIEF.

AGREEMENTS ON NATIONAL BORDER DEMARCATION BETWEEN VIETNAM AND KAMPUCHEA SIGNED.

On the 27th December 1985, the agreements on National border demarcation between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea were signed in Phnom Penh.

Representing the Vietnamese side at the signing Ceremony were Mr. Nguyen Co Thach, Alternate member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and Foreign Minister and on the Kampuchean side, Mr. Hun Sen, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party, President of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Also present at the Ceremony were Mr. Chea Sin, Politburo Member of the KPRP Central Committee, Chairman of the National Assembly and President of the National Council of the United Front for the Construction and Defence of Kampuchea, Mr. Chan Ven, General Secretary of the State Council and President of the Kampuchea - Vietnam Friendship Association, Mr. Kong Korm, Member of the Central Committee of the KPRP and Vice-Minister of the Foreign Ministry of Kampuchea.

On the Vietnamese side were Mr. Luu Van Loi, President of the Commission on Borders of the Council of Ministers and Mr. Ngo Dien, Vietnamese Ambassador to Kampuchea.

This is an important event showing the serious attitude and thorough work undertaken by Vietnam and Kampuchea in the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding in relation to border and territorial questions left behind by history. It also meets the earnest aspiration of the peoples of the two countries who have long desired to live in peaceful coexistence and good neighbourliness and to build the border lines between Vietnam and Kampuchea into a border of peace and friendship.

VIETNAM ATTENDS IUS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S MEETING.

Hanoi VNA Jan. 21 - A delegation of the Vietnam University Students Union attended a meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Union of Students (IUS) recently held in Pyongyang, capital of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea.

The meeting which was attended by 79 international, regional and national organizations, including students' organisations from the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea, held a special session on peace, security in Asia and the Pacific, and a teach-in of Asian and the Pacific students on education and society.

The delegations of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea attended a meeting for solidarity with Korea, the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea and a reception given by President Kim Il Sung in honour of the foreign delegations.

STATEMENT ON MEETING BETWEEN VIETNAMESE AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS.

Hanoi VNA Jan. 10 - The spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has issued the following statement on the meeting between the Vietnamese and U.S. Government delegations for talks on the question of Americans missing in action during the Vietnam war.

" A Vietnamese Government Delegation and a Delegation of the U.S. Government are satisfied with the results of their meeting in Hanoi on January 6-7 for talks on the question of Americans missing in action. The U.S. side highly appreciated the Vietnamese government and people's good-will. The two sides agreed on several immediate steps concerning this question.

" The two sides pledged to create a favourable atmosphere and cooperate with each other in implementing the two-year programme for seeking Americans missing in action.

" The Vietnamese and U.S. sides agreed that the MIA question is humanitarian one which can't be used as a political condition for the normalization of relations between the two countries.

" The Vietnamese side affirmed that there has been no (no) American prisoner of war being detained by Vietnam and that Vietnam is ready to conduct investigations if the U.S. side provides it with relevant information".

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT REJECTS
THAI ABSURD CLAIMS.

VNA January 21, 1986 - On 22 November 1985 the Thai Foreign Ministry issued a statement claiming their rights, unsuitable with international laws, concerning the interial waters inside the baseline and Vietnam's historical territorial waters and the airspaces above these areas. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam Foreign Ministry, on 21 January, 1986 made a statement rejecting Thai absurd arguments and claims. It reaffirmed Vietnam's determination to defend her sovereignty and interests, totally in keeping with international laws, within its territorial waters and airspace.

The statement will be sent to the U.N. General Secretary as an official document for circulation.

UNITED STATES-THAI MILITARY MANOEUVRE CONDEMNED.

VNA 20 January 1986 - The Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of Kampuchea made public of following statement concerning the annual US - Thai military manoeuvre "Cobra Gold" in area near the Kampuchean-Thai Border :

" This decision is an attempt taken by Washington, Beijing and Bangkok aimed at pushing up the morale of the Pol Pot and other Khmer reactionary remnants after their recent heavy setbacks and disintegration. This is a

blatant provocation to the people of Kampuchea, a serious threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the PRK. It is a serious obstacle for the current efforts made by many countries in SEA. and the world over in an effort to settle, through dialogue, the problem of peace and security in the region.

The PRK. strongly condemns this dangerous and arrogant act of the US imperialists and the ultra-reactionaries in the Thai Authorities and demands that the US and Thailand must renounce it immediately.

The Kampuchean people and army, holding high their vigilance and fighting spirit, are resolved to foil all hostile acts to defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Thai Authorities have to bear full responsibility for possible consequences which may originate from their adventurous acts against the PRK.

"SELF DEFENCE" ACTS OF CHINA IN HA TUYEN.

The Chinese authorities have continued with their criminal acts of war against the Vietnamese people, notably in the northern border province of Ha Tuyen.

The provincial Commission for Investigation of Chinese Expansionists and Hegemonists' War Crimes Against Vietnam has issued a report, saying that in 1985, Chinese troops fired more than 890,000 artillery shells on 33 communes and wards in nearly all the districts of Ha Tuyen, especially the districts of Vi Xuyen and Yen Minh. Dozens of villages and hamlets were practically levelled, each taking 65,000 artillery or mortar shells a month. In the last months of the year, the figure rose to 199,000 shells.

For instance, on Feb. 13, Chinese artillery shells burnt 19 houses, killed 18 inhabitants and wounded 23 others at Thanh Mo hamlet, Yen Minh district, Mr. Chao Minh Kim's family lost six of its seven members. Mr. Thao Chin Phung's family lost four among its five members. On Dec. 5, from 1p.m. to 5 p.m. Chinese troops fired 560 artillery shells on Xin Man district, destroying the Trao bridge across Chay river, burning a rice storage of Ta Nhiu cooperative and causing many deaths and wounded among the local population.

Besides, the Chinese authorities have continued with their barbarous method of warfare of dropping anti-personnel mines on rivers flowing to Vietnam, causing numerous casualties among the riparian population in Vietnam. For instance, Jan. 26, Ly Van Hoan while fishing for fry on the local river struck a Chinese mine which cut off both his hands and blinded both his eyes. Nguyen Van Hop, 13, in Tran Phu hamlet, Ha Giang town lost a leg to a Chinese mine while tending his buffalo on the river bank. He now goes to school on crutches as is the case with many other victims of Chinese mines in 1985.

PRESS OPINION :

MORALIZING WHILE PLUNDERING.

The Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes are sacred territories of the Vietnamese motherland. This has been amply proved by historical documents and international law. Justice-upholding opinion has also recognized that the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes are Vietnamese territories recorded on the maps of Western navigators many centuries ago. In its strategy of expansion to Southeast Asia, Beijing sent its troops to invade the Hoang Sa archipelago of Vietnam in 1974 in a bid to control the East Sea. This dirty act of aggression has been sternly condemned by the people of Vietnam and world opinion. Yet, the top leader of the Communist Party of China in a recent New Year trip to Hoang Sa had the cheek to declare right on a territory that had been usurped from Vietnam that China " has not invaded an inch of land of any country ".

Thus, to the goodwill for peace and the constructive proposals of Vietnam, and Beijing .. reactionaries have only responded by an arrogant and hostile attitude and a stubborn policy of pressure and confrontation. The Chinese and world people can judge how preposterous and blameworthy attitude the Beijing authorities is assuming with regard to Vietnam./.