

EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
Press and Information Section

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S P E C I A L I S S U E

CONTENTS

I- 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMPLETE VICTORY OF ANTI-US WAR OF RESISTANCE  
FOR NATIONAL SALVATION (April 30, 1975-1985)

\* Historic Events :

- Development of the 1975 Spring Offensive
- A Historic Conference
- \* Prime Minister Pham Van Dong's Interview with CBS.
- \* Vietnam Ten Years on (1975-1985) : Facts and Figures.

II- REFLECTION ON A SEMINAR IN INDONESIA :

THE PROBLEM IS EARLY CATCHING UP WITH THE TREND.

III- KAMPUCHEAN SITUATION IRREVERSIBLE : FOURTH PARTIAL ANNUAL WITHDRAWAL OF  
VIETNAMESE ARMY VOLUNTEERS FROM KAMPUCHEA

- \* Special Report on Farewell Ceremony Given to Home Going Vietnamese Army Volunteers.
- \* Victories of Kampuchean People and Armed Forces in the Recent Dry Season.
- \* Vietnam's Statement on Thai Attitude.
- \* Vietnam's Condemnation of U.S Military Aid to Khmer Reactionaries.

IV- FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION

- \* Vietnam-USSR : Meeting Between Mikhail Gorbachyov and Truong Chinh.
- \* Vietnam in Support of Soviet New Peace Initiative.
- \* Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister's Visit to Vietnam.
- \* Vietnamese Defence Minister's Visit to India.
- \* Mongolian Foreign Minister's Visit to Vietnam.
- \* Indonesian Foreign Minister's Visit to Vietnam.
- \* Vietnamese Defence Minister's Visit to Indonesia.
- \* Vietnamese National Assembly Delegation's Visits to Albania, Cuba and Nicaragua.
- \* Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach's Interview with Le Monde on Americans Missing in Action.
- \* Remains of Five Americans Missing in Action Handed to the U.S.

I- 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMPLETE VICTORY OF ANTI-US WAR  
OF RESISTANCE FOR NATIONAL SALVATION (April 30, 1975 - 1985)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE 1975 SPRING OFFENSIVE

By the end of 1974, the revolutionary forces in South Vietnam had overwhelmed the enemy forces and the US was forced to withdraw its expeditionary troops from there. At a meeting, the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam adopted a plan under which the Central Highlands were taken as the main battle-field in the 1975 Spring offensive, with Buon Ma Thuot, capital of Darlac province, as the first target of attack.

- On March 10, 1975, the Central Highlands campaign started.

Taking the enemy by surprise, the liberation forces attacked a series of enemy positions in Buon Ma Thuot, wiping out two enemy regiments and decimating the 23rd Regiment of the Saigon puppet army. This key battle shook the enemy's entire defence system in the Central Highlands. One day later, the liberation forces and people took full control of Buon Ma Thuot town.

- On March 12, 1975, Nguyen Van Thieu (the then President of the Saigon administration) in his message to the Commander of the Saigon puppet army Second Military Region, ordered "to hold Buon Ma Thuot at all costs". Saigon troops there tried in vain to launch counter-attacks in an attempt to recapture the town.

- On March 14, 1975 Nguyen Van Thieu, on his field trip to Cam Ranh to inspect the situation, ordered "free evacuation". Thieu's decision led to a panicky retreat from the Central Highlands of Saigon troops who, pursued hot on the heels by the revolutionary armed forces, fled down Highways 19 and 21 to An Khe, Khanh Duong and Gia Nghia.

- From March 25 to April 3, 1975, the liberation forces and people launched attacks and uprisings in various localities, liberating the provinces of Binh Dinh, Lam Dong and Khanh Hoa, Nha Trang city, Cam Ranh port, then Da Lat capital of Lam Dong province, etc...

The Central Highlands campaign ended with victory, the enemy's military forces and coercive apparatus in the Second Military Region were shattered; the Saigon Second Army Corps, a parachute brigade, eight multi-battalion ranger detachments and 85 civil guard battalions were wiped out; 120,000 enemy troops were put out of action and tens of thousands of others captured; 132 enemy planes were shot down or destroyed and 75 others were seized; the revolutionary armed forces also captured 120 artillery pieces and 1,500 military vehicles, and completely liberated the Central Highlands and three central coastal provinces. The victorious Central Highland campaign opened the historic 1975 Spring offensive and uprisings.

### Hue - Da Nang Campaign

In coordination with the Central Highlands campaign, the Hue-Da Nang campaign took place swiftly, dealing another deadly blow at the enemy, giving them no respite.

- On March 19, 1975, our army and people in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, in their offensive and uprisings, completely liberated the whole of Quang Tri, then perched the enemy's second defence line on the My Chanh river banks, swept down the coast to block their retreat to the sea through Thuan An port. Meanwhile, another prong, passing by the enemy's outer defence line, moved southward, cutting Highway 1 to sever Hue from Da Nang, laying siege to the former city.

- By then, Lieutenant General Ngo Quang Truong, Commander of Saigon's First Military Region, pledged in his radio address in Hue: "I would rather die fighting on the streets of Hue...", while Nguyen Van Thieu, over Saigon radio, ordered: "Get out from Kontum and Pleiku to preserve our forces, but Da Nang, Hue, and the Third and Fourth Military Regions must be kept to the last man".

- On March 25, 1975, our troops moved into Hue from different directions, pushing enemy troops towards Thuan An port. An enemy infantry division, two ranger detachments, two armoured detachments and a marine brigade were decimated or disintegrated, almost 10,000 enemy troops were captured.

While fighting was going on in Hue, our army in the Fifth Military Region, after destroying the enemy forces in the district capitals of Tien Phuoc and Phuoc Lam, opened swift attacks on the provincial town of Tam Ky and enemy bases at Thuan Duong and Chu Lai, completely liberating Quang Ngai province.

- Our people's and army's powerful attacks struck panic among enemy troops in Da Nang. They had to give up their plan for pulling back into Da Nang. U.S advisors and part of the puppet troops were evacuated from the city by Boeing 727s and helicopters.

- On March 29, 1975, our army, from various directions, swept into Da Nang, South Vietnam's second largest city, taking full control of it and wiping out or disintegrating more than 100,000 enemy troops.

With the total liberation of Da Nang, the Vietnamese people and army completely disintegrated the puppet first Army Corps, overrunning Saigon's First Military Region. This helped accelerating the process of complete disintegration of the puppet army.

- On March 28, 1975, faced with the imminent fall of the Saigon administration, General Weygand, US Army Chief of Staff, who had rolled up the US flag in South Vietnam to withdraw from there together with the last American GIs in 1973, arrived in Saigon to work out a plan for the defence of the puppet regime.

He and Saigon officials tried to gather the remnant forces of the puppet army, which included 10 infantry, paratroop and marine divisions, 12 armoured regiments, five ranger detachments, 33 artillery battalions and a number of air force and naval units in order to defend their Third and Fourth Military Regions, the centre of which was Saigon-Gia Dinh area.

They set up a forward defence line in Phan Rang and the main one around Saigon, covering Xuan Loc, Bien Hoa, Thu Dau Mot, Cu Chi, Dong Du, Hau Nghia and Tan An. They also worked out a plan for retreat to Can Tho in case Saigon fell so as to stack more chips for an eventual political deal.

The historic Ho Chi Minh Campaign

- On March 31 and April 1, 1975, the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, held a meeting to hear a report on the situation by the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee. The Politburo affirmed: "The strategic opportunity has come for a general offensive and uprising against the enemy".

It further pointed out: "We must firmly grasp the strategic opportunity under the guiding principle of carrying through the general offensive and uprising within the shortest period of time, no later than April, which is the best time, with high determination, and in a swift, daring, unexpected and surely victorious manner". The campaign for the liberation of Saigon and Gia Dinh was named "the Ho Chi Minh Campaign".

- On April 16, 1975, the revolutionary army wiped out the enemy forces in Phan Rang, breaking their forward defence line and liberating the province of Ninh Thuan, then, in coordination with the people's uprisings, liberated Binh Thuan province and its capital Phan Thiet (April 19), Binh Tuy province with its capital, Ham Tan (April 22). On April 21, enemy troops at Xuan Loc took to flight, and the province of Long Khanh was liberated.

- On April 18, President Gerald Ford ordered the evacuation of Americans from Saigon. On April 23, he declared: "For the United States, the Vietnam war has ended!" With regard to the Saigon administration, on April 21, Nguyen Van Thieu was forced to resign and Tran Van Huong took his place. Five days later however, on April 26, Tran Van Huong resigned and General Duong Van Minh took over the presidency.

- At 17.00 hrs, the historic Ho Chi Minh Campaign started. The revolutionary army, in close coordination with the people's uprisings, struck mainly from five directions, north-west, north and north-east, west and south-west.

- On the morning of April 29, attacks flared up on the whole battle front. After one day's fierce fighting, the liberation forces captured enemy bases on the outer perimeter of Saigon - Gia Dinh, preventing the puppet army divisions from falling back into the city, and seized the staging areas for attacks into the city.

- At 3.30 hrs on April 30, the US Ambassador in Saigon, G. Martin, fled the city in a helicopter together with 125 other Americans and a number of Vietnamese.

- At dawn on April 30, the forward columns of the liberation forces, in coordination with the forces inside the city, quickly attacked the main targets such as Tan Son Nhat airport, the head-quarters of the puppet army's General Staff, the command post of the Saigon Special Military Region, the Police Headquarters, the naval bases, Bach Dang port, the radio station, etc.

- At 10.45 hrs on April 30, the liberation troops attacked the Presidential Palace of the Saigon administration, captured the whole cabinet and forcing it to surrender unconditionally.

- At 11.30 hrs on April 30, a revolutionary flag was flown on top the "Independence" Palace.

- Within 55 days of general offensive and uprising, the Vietnamese army and people shattered the whole of the puppet army and administration, wiping out or disintegrating more than one million enemy troops and 1.5 million civil guards, includ-

ing four army corps (with 13 divisions), 18 multi-battalion ranger units, six air divisions, 22 naval regiments, 22 armoured regiments, 66 artillery battalions, and the entire police and security forces.

The 1975 Spring general offensive and uprising were the biggest strategic operation in Vietnam's history of struggle against foreign domination, and were crowned with the most glorious victory. They also brought the Vietnamese people's anti-US war of resistance to a victorious conclusion and ended for good the more than-one-century-long domination of Vietnam by the imperialists, ushering in an era of independence and unification, in which the whole country advances to socialism.

#### A HISTORIC CONFERENCE

With the balance of forces in South Vietnam in late 1974 tilting significantly in favour of the revolution, the South Vietnamese revolution entered a new stage. It was at this juncture that the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee met to assess the situation on the South Vietnam battlefield in the years 1973 and 1974. The conference, on the basis of a correct analysis of the balance of forces, decided to launch a general offensive and uprising for the complete liberation of South Vietnam.

The conference, held in Hanoi from Dec. 18, 1974 to January 8, 1975, was also attended by commanders and Party leaders of the Southern fronts, members of the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee, and deputy-chiefs of staff in charge of operation.

Summing up the conference on Jan. 8, 1975, General-Secretary of the Party Central Committee Le Duan said :

"Our conference has reached a high degree of unanimity, and the situation is quite clear. We are determined to accomplish a two-year plan... At present, American troops have been pulled out, our armed forces are already positioned in the South and our masses are filled with revolutionary ardour. That is the propitious moment which we must firmly grasp to step up our struggle in all the three domains, military, political and diplomatic, which is actually the special feature of the Vietnamese revolution".

Le Duan continued :

"We must deal a strategic blow at the enemy in 1975. In South Vietnam proper, we must link up our forces in the whole region, tighten our encirclement of Saigon and destroy more of the enemy live forces, thus enabling the localities to rise up whenever the opportunity comes. In the Mekong River delta, we must move closer to the provincial capital of My Tho. We have agreed to start our offensive this year by striking at Tay Nguyen (Central Highlands)".

He then turned to a military map on the wall, pointing at it :

"The thrust has to be broadened from Buon Ma Thuot and Tuy Hoa. In the Fifth Interzone, we must liberate all the areas from the provincial capital of Binh Dinh northwards. In the area of Quang Tri - Thua Thien, we must seize control from Hue to Da Nang..."

This historic conference adopted an extremely important resolution. On the prospects of the South Vietnamese revolution, the resolution says : 'Never before have we had sufficient favourable military and political conditions and great strategic opportunity as at present to complete the people's national-democratic revolution in the South...'

On the strategic determination, the resolution says : 'We shall mobilize the greatest possible efforts of the entire Party, army and people in both zones of the country to intensify our struggle in 1975-1976 in all the three domains, military, political and diplomatic, to rapidly and all-sidedly tilt the balance of forces on the battlefield in our favour. We must make very urgent preparations and complete all of them to provide the ripe conditions for the general offensive and uprising to destroy or cause the disintegration of the puppet army, smash the puppet administration from the centre to local levels, establish the people's power and liberate the South...'

Along with the 1975-1976 strategic plan the Political Bureau also envisaged another situation and prepared a very important program of action for 1975, i.e., if the 'opportunity comes in early or late 1975, we would liberate the South right in 1975'.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PHAM VAN DONG'S

ANSWERS TO C.B.S' INTERVIEW

Question 1 : Were you at all surprised at how long it took the Americans to realize that they were not going to win the war ? Should the Americans have learnt a lesson from the French experience in Vietnam ?

Answer : I was not surprised at all at what you mentioned. The United States should have learnt a lesson from the French defeat and refrained from starting the war of aggression against Vietnam. But, they did not do that. They were nurturing the illusion that the Americans could do what the French had failed to do.

It is necessary to add that in the course of the long war in Vietnam, there had been opportunities for the U.S Administration to learn from experience. Again it refused to do that, instead it continued its war-escalations resulting in one setback after another till the total defeat.

Question 2 : Why do you feel the Americans lost ?

Answer : In my opinion, the United States lost in Vietnam because they had waged an unjust war against a nation possessing a traditional determination to fight and win against any aggressor, a war condemned by the people all over the world, including the American people. For that reason, in spite of greatest possible efforts in using its own forces and those of its allies and satellites, the U.S. could not prevent the Vietnamese people's victory. In a word, it is safe to say that the Americans over-estimated their capabilities and underestimated their opponent's strength, namely the Vietnamese people's strength of unity, courage, intelligence and creativeness.

Question 3 : Did your army feel the American soldiers were good soldiers ? Did the soldiers lose the war, or did the politicians and generals ?

Answer : If they had been mobilized to wage a war to defend the United States, the American G.I's might be good soldiers. But in Vietnam, they were driven into a war which not few of them did not support in their hearts. Moreover, they had to cope with a multi-form people's war. So, though very modernly equipped, they could not win.

Here, I should like to stress that the American soldiers are not the ones responsible for the outcome of this war. Responsibility for the defeat in the war and its consequences in various fields rests with those who had advocated plunging the United States deeper and deeper in the war.

Question 4 : But knowing the United States was the richest and most powerful nation in the world, you must have anticipated a very high cost to your side ? Do you know how many men and women you lost in the war with the United States ?

Answer : We were fully aware that we were fighting the richest and most powerful imperialist power of our times and were ready to accept enormous sacrifices. However, for us, as President Ho Chi Minh said, "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom". Right from the beginning, we had fought with the steel-like confidence that final victory would certainly be ours.

I should also tell you that in the course of this fierce war, we always held initiative in strategies, tactics and operations. As a result, our armed forces could avoid great casualties. Heaviest losses were suffered by civilians in massacres perpetrated by the U.S. side, like the one in My Lai, and in Phoenix operations which took place in many places of South Vietnam.

Question 5 : What do you feel was the turning point in the war ? Did you consider the Tet Offensive of 1968 to have been a victory or a stalemate ? As you know, there has been a great deal of debate in the United States as to the actual number of forces you had in the South in 1968. Can you now tell us today, for historical purposes, how many men you did have in the South ?

Answer : This is an interesting question. I consider the General Offensive and the concerted popular uprising of Tet 1968 the turning point of the war. It was a great and resounding victory of our armed forces and people, especially from the political and psychological point of view. It marked the failure of the U.S. "Local war" strategy compelling the United States to de-escalate war, accept negotiations and start the process of pulling out of South Vietnam.

You asked how many troops we had then in South Vietnam. To tell the truth, I am not able to answer your question, because this was a people's war in which every citizen, old and young, took part in the fighting.

Question 6 : What was the effect of the Christmas 1972 bombing on Hanoi ? It is reported by some that this convinced you to resume the Paris negotiations ?

Answer : The U.S. authorities undertook the 12-day air-raid operation at Christmas 1972 against Hanoi and its vicinity in an attempt to retrieve and reverse their extremely difficult and embarrassing situation. But the United States met with stiff and talented resistance by our air-defence and air-force units resulting in the U.S. disastrous defeat. The world public then called this the "Dien Bien Phu air victory". The U.S. defeat was so heavy that many of its F.52 pilots refused to continue the air-raid operation against Hanoi. It was this defeat which compelled the United States to resume the negotiations leading to the signing of the Paris agreements on January 27, 1973. This is a most dramatic moment in the war with the positive effects I have mentioned above.

Question 7 : Were you satisfied with the terms of the Paris peace accord ?

Answer : The Paris agreements marked an important victory of our people in their resistance against U.S. aggression for national salvation. For us, its terms were satisfactory, article 1 guaranteeing our people's fundamental national rights, article 5 providing for the complete withdrawal of U.S. expeditionary troops from South Vietnam, and article 21 clearly stating that the United States shall contribute to healing the wounds of war and to post-war reconstruction of Vietnam. The Paris



agreements paved the way for the great victory of Spring 1975 which put an end to more than a century of colonialist and neo-colonialist domination over our country and restored the independence, freedom and unity of our fatherland.

Question 8 : Do you feel today that the United States still owes your country 2.3 billion dollars in war reparations ?

Answer : The exact figure is three billion two hundred and fifty million as written in the letter that President Richard Nixon sent to me. This is exactly in accordance with article 21 mentioned above.

I should also add that besides devastating our country with bombs and shells, the United States also carried out chemical warfare using dioxine on a large scale, thus causing severe human and ecological losses and damages to Vietnam. Its consequences cannot so far be fully estimated and it still remains a lasting emotional subject for the world's public.

Question 9 : In the United States, the issue of MIA continues to be a much debated topic, what is the status of this issue as you see it ? How do you answer those in the United States who charge that Vietnam is still holding pows ?

Answer : The story about "Vietnam still detaining American prisoners of war" is but a fiction of senseless persons. The MIA's question is one of the issues the solution of which demands co-operation from both sides. We always consider this a humanitarian issue, we have treated it and will continue to treat it in this spirit.

Question 10 : And what do you say to those who criticize Vietnam's role in Kampuchea ? Is your presence there likely to be a protracted one ?

Answer : Vietnamese volunteer troops have come to Kampuchea in exercise of their legitimate right to self-defence against the war of aggression waged by Beijing's henchmen, the Pol Pot clique, along our country's South-Western border, at the same time to help the Kampuchean people fight the genocidal Pol Pot regime that had massacred millions of Kampucheans. This is a just cause radiant with the spirit of humanitarianism, which not only will go down into the histories of the two peoples but also will be forever remembered by people of conscience in the world.

The Kampuchean people's revival and their ever more asserted role as masters of their own destinies have allowed partial withdrawals of Vietnamese volunteer troops who, in the years to come, will continue to pull out from Kampuchea as Vietnam had done two previous times. Obviously, the growth of the People's Republic of Kampuchea is the key to a satisfactory solution of the Kampuchean issue.

Question 11 : And what of your conflict with China, we understand two large armies face each other across your border ? What do you see as China's aim or goal ? Do you find it ironic that two former allies, China and Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge have replaced America as your enemy ?

Answer : In history, it has always been the Chinese feudalist dynasties which invaded Vietnam. The Vietnamese people were the ones who fought aggression and always, too, came out as victors. The present Chinese rulers are following the same old track.

As is known to everybody, not long ago China mobilized six hundred thousand troops to invade Vietnam along our northern border, and at present these violations

of the Vietnam-China border and encroachments on Vietnamese territory continue, thus creating tension between the two countries. The Chinese rulers are also waging a multi-faceted war of sabotage against our people. In Kampuchea, they are colluding with Thailand in using the genocidal Pol Pot clique to oppose the revival of the Kampuchean people and jeopardize Vietnam's security. So, the Chinese allegation that we are provoking and violating their territory is but a mean slander. We never do that. This is only the familiar "thief shouting - stop - thief" trick of the Chinese authorities. As far as we are concerned, we always hold high the traditional friendship between the two peoples and are prepared to normalize relations with China. To our regret, until now China has made no response to our offer. However, we will continue our efforts in this direction, at the same time sharpen our vigilance, ready to cope with any eventuality.

Question 12 : What would you like to see happen between the United States and Vietnam ? Do you have reason for optimism ?

Answer : Of course I would like to see the relations between our two countries normalized on the basis of equality and mutual respect for the sake of the great and multi-faceted interests of our two peoples. On our part, we are willing, but I think this requires goodwill and tenacious efforts from both sides.

Finally, I should like to say to you that peace is the earnest aspiration of everyone on earth. More than anyone else, the Vietnamese people are desirous of lasting peace in this region and the rest of the world. I am convinced that the American people as well as all other peoples in the world cherish the same.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend to the American people sentiments of friendship and best wishes from the Vietnamese people.

#### VIETNAM TEN YEARS ON (1975-1985) : FACTS AND FIGURES

##### - Agricultural Production :

	<u>1975</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
* Cultivated acreage (Thousand hectares)	5,600	6,767	
* Food output (million tonnes)	11.6	16.9	17.6
* Animal husbandry			
+ Pigs (million heads)	8.8	11.1	11.8
+ Oxen (million heads)	1.5	2.2	2.26
+ Buffloes (million heads)	2.2	2.5	2.34

- Industrial production :

	<u>1975</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
* Electricity (million Kw/h)	2,428	4,184	4,950
* Coal (million tonnes)	5.2	6.2	
* Cement (tonnes)	536,600	906,900	1,324,074
* Textiles (million metres)	146.4	287.3	320
* Paper (tonnes)	41,700	49,000	67,000

SELECTED DATA ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(1975 = 100)

	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1983</u>
- Population	100	112.8	120.4
- Labour force	100	117.8	126.6
- National income	100	113.4	143.7
- Gross Industrial Production	100	112.8	169.9
* Group A	100	120.4	156.7
* Group B	100	108.1	175.7
- Gross Agriculture Production	100	118.6	156.1
* Vegetable production	100	121.9	135.6
* Animal Production	100	106.8	138.2
- Value of Trade turnover	100	160.1	192.9
* Export	100	259.1	409.4
* Import	100	145.8	161.7
- Volume of goods circulated	100	169.9	205.3
- Pupils of general education	100	117.2	114.1
- Number of students of secondary vocational schools and higher schools	100	148.4	167.0
- Physicians	100	119.9	158.0
- Hospital beds	100	137.3	141.7

II- REFLECTION ON A SEMINAR IN INDONESIA :

THE PROBLEM IS EARLY CATCHING UP WITH THE TREND

A Seminar attended by several international, strategic researchers of Vietnam and Indonesia had been very wide-ranging and beneficial. The straightforward, open-minded attitudes on the basis of friendship embraced all three lively working days. Inevitably, there were moments of debates, frictions on political viewpoints, this is not regrettable. As long as they respect and listen to each other's opinions with

the attitude of the scientific researchers, from contradictions to find out reality and the truth, discovering the law of the movement of events. It is the atmosphere of heated debates which had become an interesting feature of the seminar.

As time passes, the understanding of the truth of our Indonesian friends has progressed steadily. The debates were focussed on the "Kampuchean problem", and on finding a solution for it.

Fortunately, four Indonesian journalists had visited Kampuchea to study the situation on the spot during the past 4 years. Information from different sources on the Kampuchean situation have been accumulated daily by our Indonesian friends at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies for selection, analysis and evaluation. Our (Indonesian) friends have had in-depth assessments of serious researchers when they came to the conclusion that the entry of Vietnamese forces to Kampuchea was a necessary action, for moral obligation towards the fraternal people of a neighbouring country which was in a genocidal calamity, for security interest of Vietnam, for the necessity to retaliate against the barbaric attacks on Southwestern frontier of Vietnam by Pol Pot's forces which were under the encouragement and command of Beijing. Many Indonesian friends had also recognised that on international law, the entry of Vietnamese Army into Kampuchea is understandable because the world community cannot for the principle of "respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity of a country" to let the butchery Pol Potists to kill gradually, en-masse the Kampuchean people, destroying all social structures of this country. And the basic important reason for the Vietnamese action is for the true independence of Kampuchea.

In contrary to the often repeated slanders from psychological warfare machines of Beijing in unison with Washington, loudly echoed by Bangkok, the Indonesian strategic and international scientists have concluded that Vietnam never has any bad intension towards Thailand, never wants to invade or to subjugate Thailand or any other ASEAN country. "We say that not because we want to satisfy you or to be polite, that is the truth that we have recognised". The Chinese expansionists, ~~hegemonists~~ must be fainted because of anger when knowing that their allegation which has been distributed all over the world that Vietnam after defeating the Americans has become haughty, arrogant, claiming its a major military power, swallowing Kampuchea, wanting to swallow Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia - this "domino" theory has been exposed as a fraud, a concoction by vigilant researchers over here. Our friends affirm: to the Indochinese countries as well as ASEAN countries there is only one real danger coming from one place, that is the danger of aggression and subversion from the Chinese expansionists. All countries in Southeast Asian region should be united and vigilant in dealing with this danger to safeguard security and developments in the whole region.

The Indonesian friends had also confirmed: Vietnam truly intends to withdraw gradually its forces from Kampuchea. In history, twice Vietnamese Army had come to help Kampuchean friends, and both times, the troops were withdrawn to the last man. A fact which had been said firmly and definitely by Indonesian friends is: The Pol Potists - The Khmer Rouge are cruel mass murderers and must be eliminated militarily and politically; No one with intellect and feelings in the world can support this barbaric, inhumane clique. On both moral and legal aspects, the "Khmer Rouge" absolutely can not have any role in a political solution in Kampuchea. Our friends welcomed the appeal of the government of the P.R. of Kampuchea agitating Khmer Rouge followers to leave their rank, and for having a fair and magnanimous policy towards them. The elimination of the "Khmer Rouge" must be understood as to eliminate the leaders who hold central roles in the criminal machine and definitely not to pursuit and to kill until the last "Khmer Rouge" for vengeance.

The seminar pointed out that Pol Potists are typical Maoists, the worst and most dangerous kind being nurtured by detrimental foods of cruel and violent policies of Beijing. They must be definitely eliminated in order to avoid a potential danger in Southeast Asia. The seminar confirmed that the majority of people, public opinions of many countries in the world had reached a general consensus that in reality, one can not support the criminal "Khmer Rouge", they must be eliminated as a political and military force detrimental to security, stability and the rights to live in independence and freedom of all peoples.

On the Kampuchean question, the Indonesian side noted carefully our detailed presentation. There are two clear possibilities. The first possibility is that if there is no international political solution to the Kampuchean question, then it can be solved by itself within a number of years, when the recovery of the Kampuchean people, assisted wholeheartedly by their friends, has achieved better and better results, when the Kampuchean people have mastered all their affairs relying on the momentum and the trend of the past years, especially on the present momentum.

The second possibility is a "political solution" on the basis of complete respect for the right to self-determination of the Kampuchean people, in addition to the mutual understanding and cooperation between the Indochinese countries and ASEAN countries, with the contributions of all people of goodwill in the world. Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos are doing their utmost on the second possibility. This will benefit every country in the region. This will run counter to the wicked designs of Beijing which encourage confrontation between Indochinese countries and ASEAN countries so that they can take advantage according to a cruel policy : sitting in the mountain to watch tigers fighting each others. Virtually Beijing stands alone in supporting the Pol Potists in contrary to the tendency of civilised mankind. This fact is not fearsome because for a long time now, Beijing's will is not God's will ! From the ancient time to present, the Chinese designs towards Southeast Asia and South Asia have been always halted by the firm wall of independence, freedom spirit of the peoples living in the region. The fundamental weakness of the Chinese ruling circles at present is stubbornly nourishing the barbaric criminal Pol Potists. That is the big nail placed under their heel.

In the press conference after the closure of the Seminar, American and British newsmen (UPI) and (BBC) asked viciously if the Vietnamese delegation wants to attract Indonesia and to sow division among the ASEAN countries ?

The answer for the first question is that the questioners have offended the hosts and friends of the hosts and especially have offended himself. Who attracts who ? Scientific seminar is a friendly cooperation to find out the truth. Only the truth, justice and the objective tendency of the situation have drawn the scientists of both countries to stand on the side of the truth.

The second question had been clearly answered : the Vietnamese side has never wanted to sow division in the internal affairs of ASEAN, on the contrary we want the ASEAN countries be united on the basis of independence, freedom, sovereignty of each country, peace, stability and cooperation in the region. The fact that the Thai

authority is running counter to the general trend, attached themselves to the dark schemes of China thus been criticised by their friends, encroaching upon the sovereignty of Thailand itself. The Thai ruling circles have miscalculated, they have fought against an unreal danger to receive a real one, believing in flattering words and gaining a few material benefits from Beijing, submitting their necks to the soft, silky noose made by the Chinese expansionists. An Indonesian friend said straight forwardly that : one cannot let Bangkok to lead ASEAN and steer it towards an extremely dangerous direction ! This is the time for Thailand to be aware of the essential trend of history, giving up the "Khmer Rouge", detaching themselves from wicked schemes of China, contributing to an early formation of good neighbourly relations with Indochinese countries, which will benefit all countries in this region.

An independent, free Vietnam, having firm strength to defend the fatherland and to develop the economy after several decades of destruction by all sorts of wars, is our aspiration, it is also the wish of our Indonesian friends. Our friends would like the relations between the two countries be restored and developed soon, relations that will benefit both sides. And those relations should not be waited for a settlement on Kampuchean issue. Although every one would like the Kampuchean problem to be solved as soon as possible on the basis of the principle of respect for the right of self-determination of the Kampuchean people, with goodwill of all countries in the region.

The chartered aircraft of the Indonesian government flew from Jakarta to capital Hanoi passing 3450 kilometres and almost five hours of flying time, receiving and sending off the Vietnamese delegation. The chief pilot said happily: " We are pleased to inaugurate this friendship airline service today. Then Indonesian and Vietnamese airplanes will pass this route frequently. Is that right ? ", "You are right, my Indonesian friend".

Commercial ships of the two countries will dock at each other's ports. The amount of exchanged goods shall be increased. Our friends wish to have early meetings with Vietnamese economists and entrepreneurs to discuss business. University professors at Djajakarta, the ancient capital of Indonesia, wish both sides will exchange archeologists, historians, popular literature specialists, linguists.

Science is the discoveries of rules, movement of objects. Strategy is to look further, wider in space and time. The seminar between Vietnamese and Indonesian scientists, strategists has been a significant contribution. The essential thing is to understand the real situation and quickly catch up with the trend of the development.

### III- KAMPUCHEAN SITUATION IRREVERSIBLE : FOURTH ANNUAL WITHDRAWAL OF VIETNAMESE ARMY VOLUNTEERS FROM KAMPUCHEA

On implementation of the decision of the February 1983 Summit Conference of Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam, on the presence of the Vietnamese volunteer army in Kampuchea, and the communique of the 10th Conference of Foreign Ministers of the three countries, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea have agreed on another partial withdrawal of units of Vietnamese volunteer troops from Kampuchea. This is the fourth partial withdrawal and it consists of group 52 : one infantry division, 4 technological brigades, 3 infantry brigades : 7703, 7706 and 9906 from North Eastern provinces : Svay Rieng , Prey Veng and Kandal. The withdrawal begins on April 3, 1985 and will be completed by May.

The fourth partial withdrawal of Vietnamese army volunteers from Kampuchea took place just after the Kampuchean people and revolutionary armed forces with efficient assistance of Vietnamese volunteers had scored a great military victory in

the dry-season 1984-1985 by wiping out all major bases of Pol Pot remnants and other Khmer reactionary forces along the Kampuchean-Thai border. Over 10,000 enemies were put out of action. The Kampuchean armed forces captured 15,000 weapons of all kinds, hundreds of tonnes of food, shot down one Thai aircraft which violated Kampuchean space, captured or destroyed 24 military vehicles, destroyed many depots of ammunition and military equipments supplied by China and other international reactionaries. The dry-season victories shows the effective and quick growth of the Kampuchean revolutionary armed forces. 6 years have elapsed since the complete liberation from the blood-thirsty genocidal Pol Pot clique, the Kampuchean people and their nation have grown up with miraculous revival. Together with the resounding military victories, important successes in the economic, social and diplomatic fields have greatly strengthened the Kampuchean revolution. Kampuchea has irresistibly forged ahead. The country's security has been firmly safeguarded and its defence capacity has grown stronger. Like the previous troop withdrawals in 1982, 1983 and 1984, this one is a new evidence of Vietnam's and Kampuchea's correct and goodwill foreign policies. This is also proof of the three Indochinese countries's persistent endeavour to promote dialogue with the ASEAN countries to bring about peace, stability, friendship and cooperation in South East Asia.

Over the past 6 years, encouraged by revolutionary spirit, the Vietnamese volunteers brilliantly fulfilled their internationalist obligations thus securing confidence and affection from the entire Kampuchean people and contributing to cementing the unshakable fraternal Vietnamese-Kampuchean alliance. The Vietnamese volunteers have enjoyed devoted care from the Kampuchean party, state and people. They have also enjoyed the close cooperation of the Kampuchean revolutionary armed forces who have grown up and matured in the defence of their homeland during the miraculous renaissance of their country over the last 6 years. The Kampuchean party and people have awarded the Vietnamese volunteers high honours and acknowledged their contributions to the Kampuchean revolution. These beloved sons of Vietnam have displayed the fine virtues of the heroic Vietnam People's Army with their fervent patriotism and pure internationalism.

#### SPECIAL REPORT ON FAREWELL CEREMONY GIVEN TO HOME-GOING VIETNAMESE ARMY VOLUNTEERS

A ceremony was held in the capital of Stung Treng province, Kampuchea on April 3, 1985 to bid farewell to group 52 and brigades : 7703 , 7706 and 9906 of the Vietnamese army volunteers which are going home as part of this year partial withdrawal under the agreement of the governments of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The ceremony was sponsored by the Kampuchean National Defence Ministry and the provincial Revolutionary Administration, attended by nearly ten thousands Kampuchean people representing North Eastern provinces.

Present on the Presidium, on the Kampuchean side were Bu Thoong, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Defence Minister, and other Party, State and army leaders; On the Vietnamese side were Vietnamese Ambassador to Kampuchea Ngo Dien and Major General Huynh Huu Anh, Commander of Group 52; the Lao Ambassador to Kampuchea was also present. The event was covered by reporters from Vietnam, Soviet Unions, India, United States, Britain, France, Japan, Italy, Australia and Thailand.

In his speech , Thoong Chan, representative of the Commanders of the First Military Region appreciated the timely and effective assistance of the Vietnamese volunteer army including Group 52 and the Kampuchean people in the January 1979 victory and the national defence of the past 6 years. Mr. Thoong Chan highly valued the effective combination between Group 52 of the Vietnamese army volunteers and the Kampuchean people in the North Eastern provinces which led to the great

victories in 1984-1985 dry-season. He said : "On behalf of the people in North Eastern provinces, I would like to express our sincere and profound gratitude to the Vietnamese Party and government for sending volunteer army to Kampuchea to help the Kampuchean people and armed forces defend their independence, territorial integrity and peaceful life of the Kampuchean people in the North Eastern provinces.

Then, Major General Huynh Huu Anh on behalf of Group 52 of the Vietnamese army volunteers made a speech expressing the profound gratitude to the Party and people of Kampuchea for their care and assistance given to the Vietnamese army volunteers. He said : "The Kampuchean people's warm sentiment always engrave in the mind of the Vietnamese army volunteers, reminding them to further strengthen the militant solidarity between Vietnam and Kampuchea". On behalf of the Kampuchean Defence Ministry, Mr. Thoong Chan presented the 7 units of Group 52 with flags of the Kampuchean Defence Ministry. The United Front for National Construction and Defence at the Capital of Phnom Penh presented the Group with flags, gifts and other souvenirs.

At 10.15 am, the convoy carried Vietnamese army volunteers headed by a detachment of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Army. Forces preceded to the main square of the provincial capital of Stung Treng - Major General Huynh Huu Anh bid farewell to Kampuchean Defence Minister Bu Thoong, Vietnamese Ambassador Ngo Dien and the others. Minister Bu Thoong embraced Major General Huynh Huu Anh, bidding farewell to him and the Vietnamese army volunteers. The convoy of 400 vehicles started moving off the square and was headed by an infantry division and followed by brigades of artillery, anti-aircraft batteries and tanks. The convoy moved on the road lined by thousands of Kampuchean people.

Earlier, in the morning of April 2, 1985, a ceremony was held in Phnom Penh to present Angkor order, the highest distinction of the Kampuchean state to Group 52 and the national defence orders to Vietnamese units who have fulfilled their international duty in Kampuchea. Speaking at the ceremony, Kampuchean Defence Minister Bu Thoong said : "This is the fourth partial withdrawal of Vietnamese army volunteers since 1982 following the great victories on the battlefields in the western and north western borders of our country. After 4 months of fierce fighting, the Kampuchean Revolutionary armed forces with strong and effective assistance of the Vietnamese army volunteers completely overran all major bases of the enemy along the border from Koh Kong to Preah Vehia, breaking the mainstays which had been built by them in many years. This troop withdrawal is a proof of a rapid growth of the Kampuchean Revolutionary Armed forces in national defence. This also justifies the good-will of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in bringing about peace and stability in the region". The Kampuchean Defence Minister stated that the cause of the present tension along the Kampuchean-Thai border and the threat to peace and stability in the Indochinese peninsular and South East Asia came from the repeated sabotage activities of the Beijing leadership in collusion with Washington and other reactionary forces. He condemned the Beijing authorities in collusion with Washington for using Thai territory to nurture Pol Pot remnants and other Khmer reactionaries to oppose the Kampuchean people. Mr. Bu Thoong also condemned the U.S for intensifying its aid to Thailand and to the Khmer reactionaries, and the Thai authorities for interfering in internal affairs and violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kampuchea. The People's Republic of Kampuchea has a policy of respecting the integrity of the Kingdom of Thailand, and wish to live in peace with all its neighbours.



On behalf of all cadres and soldiers of Group 52 and other outgoing units, Major General Huynh Hiu Anh expressed his profound gratitude towards the Party, State and people of Kampuchea for presenting the highest distinction to Group 52.

The ceremony was concluded by the speech of President of the Kampuchean National Assembly Chia Sim. He said "The Kampuchean people and army will forever bear in mind the great contribution of the Vietnamese army volunteers".

### VICTORIES OF THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE AND ARMED FORCES IN THE DRY-SEASON MILITARY CAMPAIGN

With the efficient assistance of the Kampuchean people and the Vietnamese army volunteers in Kampuchea, the Kampuchean Revolutionary Armed Forces during the recent dry-season, successively overrun all the major bases of enemies along the Kampuchean-Thai border, reported SPK.

According to the preliminary statistics, the Kampuchean Armed Forces put out of action 10,000 enemies, captured 15,000 assorted weapons and hundreds of tonnes of munitions and food. They also shot down one Thai aircraft which violated Kampuchean airspace, and destroyed 24 vehicles and thousands of tonnes of munitions.

On Feb. 4 and 5, 1985, in an attack on a headquarter of the enemy in the common border region between Kampuchea, Laos and Thailand, the Kampuchean armed forces put out of action 905 enemies and captured 103 others, seized 4,221 weapons, 400 tonnes of munitions, 14 vehicles, 100 bicycles, 50 tonnes of rice and salt, one depot of weapons, one depot of medicines and destroyed 5 other depots.

On Feb. 8, 1985, the Revolutionary forces attacked the headquarter of the Pol Pot clique in the western part of Pursat. On Feb. 11, they put out of action 223 enemies, seized 1,177 weapons, 13 vehicles, 75 tonnes of mines and munitions, 88 tonnes of food, 3 radio posts, 136 telephones and 3 depots of medicines.

From Feb. 12 to 14, 1985, the armed forces of Kampuchea attacked Phnom Melai base in province Battambang, killed 80 enemies, seized 200 weapons, one depot of food, one depot of munitions, one radio post and a number of mines.

On Jan. 7, 1985, the Son San base in Ampil was overrun by the Kampuchean armed forces. They put out of action 500 enemies, seized 350 weapons, two depots of munitions and one jeep.

From Feb. 25 to March 11, 1985, the Kampuchean armed forces overran the headquarter of the Sihanouk forces situated east of Chong Choan, put out of action 1200 enemies. Sihanouk's Deputy Chief of Staff, Major General Kim Meng was killed. The Kampuchean forces seized 1,500 weapons, two vehicles, and destroyed 11 vehicles, 400 weapons, 20 tonnes of munitions and one store of military equipment.

VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT

ON THAI ATTITUDE TOWARDS KAMPUCHEA 25 MARCH 85

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam issued on 25 March 1985 the following statement :

According to the sources from Bangkok, Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonde referred on 22 March 1985 to the possibility of the Thai armed forces' fighting against the Vietnamese forces inside Kampuchea. Earlier, Deputy Commander-in Chief of the Thai Ground Force Tienchai Sirisamphan also stated : "The Thai army will attack the Vietnamese forces inside Kampuchea". A high-ranking official of the Thai Foreign Ministry declared that Thailand did not rule out the possibility of hot pursuits into Kampuchean territory.

It is serious that these statements were made after the ASEAN call on other countries to give military aid to the Khmer reactionary forces to oppose the Kampuchean people, and after the visits paid to Thailand by China's Head of State and generals.

The Thai authorities' bellicose statements are completely the rehash of the position, they pursued 15 years ago, of supporting Nixon's doctrine of "hot pursuits" when the American troops invaded Kampuchea in April 1970. This constitutes a further step in Thailand's support for the Pol Pot clique and other Khmer reactionaries to oppose the Kampuchean people's rebirth after allowing the Khmer reactionaries to use Thai territory as sanctuary while conducting non-declared artillery shelling on and incursions into Kampuchean territory during the last 6 years. This is also a serious adventure taken after the brazen occupation of the three Lao hamlets by Thai troops in June 1984.

The above arrogant statements expose the Thai authorities' obstinate rejection of the People's Republic of Kampuchea's proposal to set up a safety zone along the Kampuchean-Thai border and the People's Democratic Republic of Laos' proposal to put an end to the tension along the Lao-Thai border. These acts show that the Thai authorities in collusion with Chinese ruling circles are trying to maintain tension along the Thai-Kampuchean border as well as Thai-Lao border while nipping the territory of the two countries and supporting the Pol Pot genocidal clique, Lao and Vietnamese reactionaries to oppose the three Indochinese countries.

The situation along the Kampuchean-Thai border during the last 6 years eloquently demonstrates that the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have refrained themselves from Thailand's arrogant actions. While punishing the Pol Potist and other Khmer reactionary forces, the PRK armed forces and the Vietnam volunteer troops have always respected Thailand's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have not exercised the right to "hot pursuit" to wipe out the Khmer reactionaries in their "sanctuaries" inside Thai territory. If the Thai authorities follow the American doctrine of "hot pursuit" in order to violate the People's Republic of Kampuchea's sovereignty and territory, they must bear full responsibility for all serious consequences arising from their acts.

The SRV Government demands that the Thai authorities put an immediate end to their violations of Kampuchean sovereignty and territorial integrity and stop letting the Pol Potist and other Khmer reactionary forces use Thai territory as shelter to oppose the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

The present situation requires more than ever before urgent measures to set up a safety zone along the Kampuchean-Thai border with international supervision and control as the Indochinese countries have repeatedly proposed.

In the interests of the Thai people and of peace and stability in South East Asia, the SRV Government appeals the Thai authorities to respond positively to the goodwill proposals put forward by the three Indochinese countries. The SRV Government also calls on the peace-loving peoples and governments all over the world to take effective action to support the efforts aimed at establishing durable peace along the Kampuchean-Thai border, thus contributing to the safeguard of peace and stability in South East Asia and the world over.

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In this connection, spokesmen for the Foreign Ministries of the Peoples's Republic of Kampuchea and the People's Democratic Republic of Laos also condemned the Thai authorities for statements advocating direct confrontation between the Thai armed forces and the Vietnamese volunteer troops inside Kampuchea.

VOICE OF VIETNAM'S COMMENTARY ON THE ERRONEOUS  
MOVE OF THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee recently took an extremely erroneous move by adopting a draft bill to grant 5 million dollars in military aid to the Khmer reactionary forces. This move runs counter to the recent statements by high ranking American officials that the U.S would not give military aid to Khmer reactionaries. This decision shows that the U.S House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee has forgotten and refused to draw the Vietnam lesson and it deliberately interferes in the internal affairs of the Indochinese countries and South East Asia as a whole.

"The Christian Science Monitor" on March 29 said : "Even several American diplomats also agreed that the U.S involvement in Kampuchea is harmful". The magazine added that a number of observers in the U.S. shared the same opinion that U.S. support for the Kampuchean reactionaries never ensure the victory of them.

This decision of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee only lends a hand to Beijing and other reactionary forces in the Thai ruling circles against the Kampuchean and the Indochinese peoples.

It only makes more tension in the region and sabotages the trend of dialogue aimed at seeking a correct solution to the regional problems.

The unswerving stand of the Kampuchean people as well as of the Indochinese people is to strive for peace, stability and cooperation among countries in the region. However the Indochinese will do their utmost to defend their revolutionary gains, their peaceful life and happiness.

The decision to grant five million dollars military aid to Sihanouk and Son San by the U.S House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee in the present situation is an adventurous action and it only pours more oil on the flame.

- The U.S. is increasing its direct interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. Congressman Jef Leed of IOWA said : "The House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee's voting for the five million dollars military aid to the Kampuchean people's enemies who are hiding in Thailand, is an act of interference. Meanwhile Washington is trying to strengthen the Thai military machinery and using Thai territory as a springboard against the Kampuchean people. The Pentagon had informed the U.S. Congress about the decision to supply Thailand with 12 fighter planes F.16 worth 360 million dollars.

#### IV- FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION

##### - PRESIDENT TRUONG CHINH MEETS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE M. GORBACHYOV

Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee received Truong Chinh, member of the Politburo of the CPV Central Committee and President of the State Council, Head of the Party and State delegation to the funeral of Comrade Konstanti Chernenko on March 13 in Kremlin.

President Truong Chinh, on behalf of the CPV Central Committee and Le Duan, General Secretary congratulated Comrade Mikhail Gorbachyov on the occasion of his appointment as General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Comrade M. Gorbachyov sincerely thanked the Vietnamese leaders and people for their deep condolences at the death of Comrade Konstantine Chernenko.

During the talks, the two sides expressed their determination to strengthen and develop the friendship and cooperation between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Communist Party of Vietnam, between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Vietnam on the basis of Marxist-Leninism, socialist internationalism and on the basis of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation and the long-term economic, technical and scientific programme between the two countries.

As far as the international situation is concerned, the two sides emphasized their determination to work together for peace and stability of all nations and the elimination of a nuclear war.

"The Vietnamese side wholeheartedly supports the peace initiatives and principled position taken by the Soviet Union in the talks with the United States aimed at preventing the arms race and easing the international tension.

"On the occasion of the coming 40th Anniversary of the great victory over fascism, together with the world people, the Vietnamese people are indebted to the Soviet Union who saved mankind from fascist danger and paved the way for the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress".

The Soviet side voiced solidarity with the Vietnamese people's struggle against outside attacks and interference, and its efforts to turn South East Asia into a zone of peace, stability and good neighbourliness.

#### - VIETNAM SUPPORTS SOVIET NEW PEACE INITIATIVE

In a commentary on April 10, 1985, the Vietnamese leading newspaper 'Nhan Dan' welcomed the Soviet Union's decision on a moratorium on the deployment of medium-range missiles and a suspension of the implementation of other counter measures in Europe till November this year as a "new peace initiative", "the voice of reason" and "an expression of genuine heroism". The paper says General Secretary Gorbachyov's statement in an interview with Pravda has further highlighted the Soviet Union's sense of responsibility before the destiny of all nations, its deep commitment to peace and determination to strive untiringly for world peace and security. The new Soviet proposal has opened the way for a correct solution to the immediate and urgent problem of mankind. That is to really reduce the existing number of weapons and for the first step, to eliminate a considerable amount of those weapons, not to manufacture new weapons in space as well as on land, move towards a complete elimination of nuclear arms in the world and to avoid a nuclear war on this planet.

In the present world situation, the Soviet Union's new proposals bear an extremely great significance and meet world people's pressing demand for preserving peace, curbing the arms race and the danger of a nuclear war which seriously threatens peace and security of all nations.

Nhan Dan stresses : "The Vietnamese people join peace-loving people all over the world and give their complete support to the Soviet Union's stand of goodwill as expounded in comrade Gorbachyov's statement. We hold that the Reagan Administration negative response to the Soviet new proposal proves that the U.S. has not matched its words with its deeds. Washington also claims its concern for peace and hopes for an agreement on substantial arms reduction but reality shows that the U.S. Administration is only concerned about the continuation of arms race, the building of its nuclear weapons and the realisation of its Star War plan. Public opinion has every reason to doubt the sincerity of the U.S."

"The world people demand that U.S. Administration stop at once its arms race both on earth and in outer space, end the deployment of medium range missiles in Europe, seriously and faithfully negotiate these issues with the Soviet Union. The recent marches and demonstration by hundreds of thousands of people in Western European countries prove that the will to defend peaceful life is stronger than ever". Nhan Dan concluded.

**- SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO VIETNAM**

After attending the ESCAP Conference and visiting Australia, Thailand and Indonesia, M. S. Kapitsa, USSR Deputy Foreign Minister paid a visit to Vietnam from April 3 to April 6, 1985.

During his visit in Vietnam, M. S. Kapitsa was warmly received by Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and held talks with Minister Vo Dong Giang.

The two sides informed each other of their respective country's diplomatic activities and exchanged views on the issues of mutual concern. The two sides expressed their unanimity with the assessment of regional and the international situation and agreed to further strengthen the close collaborations between the two Foreign Ministries and enhance the two countries' strenuous efforts aimed at promoting dialogues between countries in the region and making South East Asia a region of peace and stability. The Vietnamese side highly appreciated the result of M. S. Kapitsa's visit and thanked the strong support of the Soviet Union towards the 5-point position outlined by the Indochinese Foreign Ministers' Conference in Jan. 1985.

**- VIETNAMESE DEFENCE MINISTER'S VISIT TO INDIA**

At the invitation of the Defence Minister of the Republic of India Marasimha Rao, a Vietnamese military delegation led by General Van Tien Dung, Defence Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam paid an official visit of friendship to India from 26 March to 2 April, 1985.

President of the Republic of India Zail Singh received General Van Tien Dung in the afternoon of March 26, 1985. General Van Tien Dung conveyed the greetings and compliments of the President of the State Council of the SRV, Truong Chinh, to President Z. Singh. The Defence Minister expressed the sincere gratitude of the Vietnamese people and army to India for its warm support given to Vietnam. President Z. Singh held that the visit of the Vietnamese military delegation to India would reinforce the traditional solidarity and friendship between the two peoples. "We stand by your side, support you in the national reconstruction and defence", said he.

Prime Minister of the Republic of India Rajiv Gandhi received General Van Tien Dung on March 29, 1985. General Van Tien Dung thanked the Prime Minister, the Indian government, people and army for their support and assistance given to the Vietnamese people in their national reconstruction and defence. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi stressed that Vietnam has played an extremely important position. The Indian government has constantly reserved a strong support and assistance to Vietnam.

During his stays in India, General Van Tien Dung held a series of talks with his Indian counterpart Marasimha Rao. The two sides discussed measures to strengthen the various relations between the two armies to serve the objectives of defence and development of each countries, and to promote peace, stability and cooperation in the region and in Asia.

Defence Minister Van Tien Dung and his party visited military institutes, the headquarters of the airforces in the South Western region, infantry division No. 12, headquarters of naval forces in the eastern and western regions.

- MONGOLIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO VIETNAM

At the invitation of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Comrade Mangalyn Dugersuren, member of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Mongolia and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Mongolia and his wife paid an official visit of friendship to Vietnam from 19 to 23 March 1985.

The Mongolian Foreign Minister was warmly received by President of the SRV State Council Truong Chinh and Chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong.

Foreign Minister M. Dugersuren and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Co Thach held cordial talks on international and Asian situation and on the consolidation of the fraternal friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The two sides shared identity of views on all matters.

In a joint communique issued on the occasion of the Mongolian Foreign Minister's visit, the two sides note with satisfaction that the fraternal friendship and close cooperation between the two countries have been constantly developing and consolidated on the basis of the 1979 Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the SRV and the PRM. Both sides reaffirm the consistent policy of their parties and Governments to consolidate the bilateral friendship, broaden the cooperation between the two countries in the economic, cultural, scientific and technological fields on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism. The two sides stress the necessity to speed up and strengthen efforts of all peace-loving, democratic and progressive forces in the struggle for the elimination of the danger of nuclear war, disarmament and for the improvement of international climate. The two sides are deeply concerned with the matters of safeguarding peace and stability in Asia and reaffirm that Vietnam and Mongolia will continue to cooperate closely with other fraternal countries of the socialist community, to eliminate hotbeds of tension in Asia and to turn Asia into a zone of peace and cooperation. Both sides strongly condemn the imperialists and expansionists for their interference in the region and their violation of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Indochinese countries and consider those above-mentioned acts as the main obstacles for durable peace and stability in South East Asia. The Mongolian Foreign Minister highly appreciates the active foreign policy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, supports all constructive proposals put forward by Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea on the settlement of the SEA problems, especially the position outlined by the Tenth Conference of the Indochinese Foreign Ministers. The two sides strongly condemn the Chinese Authorities for their expansionist policy, their armed provocations along the Sino-Vietnamese border and their violation of the SRV's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The two sides demand that China immediately put an end to their hostile activities against the Indochinese countries. On the other hand, they express their desire to normalize relations with the People's Republic of China on the basis of peaceful co-existence and in the interest of a durable peace in Asia. Vietnam and Mongolia welcome the Soviet Union's principled position on the normalization of her relations with the People's Republic of China. The Vietnamese side reaffirms once again its support for the P.R.M. proposal on the signing of a Treaty of non-aggression and refraining from the use of force in the relations among the Asian-Pacific countries.

An agreement of visa immunity between Vietnam and Mongolia was signed during the Mongolian Foreign Minister's visit.

During their stay in Vietnam, Minister M. Dugersuren and his wife visited the Vietnam-Mongolia Friendship State Farm set up with the Mongolian Government's aid, the Hoa Binh hydro-electric project and other economic establishments. They also visited Ho Chi Minh City.

- INDONESIA FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS VIETNAM

At the invitation of the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Professor, Dr. Mochtar Kusumaatmadja and his wife paid an official visit to Vietnam from 14 to 17 March 1985. Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach held talks with Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja on bilateral relations, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

At the reception in the evening of 14 March in honour of Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, his wife and other Indonesian guests, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach said : "Our two countries have long-standing relations. We have never had war with each other inspite of our sea border. The Indonesian and Vietnamese Revolutions were twins, which were born on the same day 40 years ago after fascism and militarism were defeated in the Second World War. It was not by chance, because the objectives of our two revolutions were against colonialism , and for national independence and unification".

He stressed : "The Vietnamese and Indonesian peoples are very proud of their contributions to the common struggle in the world. The Dien Bien Phu victory of the Vietnamese people was an encouragement for the Asian, African peoples in their struggle against colonialism and the Bandung Conference of the Indonesian people was the torch of Asian, African solidarity for independence and peace. With the spirit of Dien Bien Phu and Bandung, our two countries have the responsibility to contribute to the cause of uniting Asian, African nations and above all the cause of uniting South East Asian countries for the sake of peace independence and people's welfare. If we respect and treasure the solidarity among the Asian and African countries, we must respect and treasure the solidarity among South East Asian countries, the ASEAN solidarity as well as the Indochinese solidarity, frustrating all attempts to push these two groups of countries in South East Asia into confrontation, to use South East Asians against South East Asians. With the spirit of Bandung Indonesia is a friendly bridge linking the Asian and African countries, a friendly bridge linking the South East Asian countries.

"The fact that Indonesia and Vietnam have been nominated by the ASEAN and the Indochinese countries to carry out dialogue, put heavy responsibility on us. This is for the first time in South East Asian history that the countries in the regions resolve peacefully their problems..."

In his reply, Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja said : "Indonesia highly respects and values the Vietnamese-Indonesian relationship. We hope that this visit will lay the basis for the development of relations between the two countries in economic, commercial and other fields".

He stressed : "We are for a peaceful and stable South East Asia, free from outside intervention. South East Asia will benefit from a firm, strong and prosperous Vietnam . The question of peace and stability in South East Asia is the current biggest issue of our region".

The Indonesian Foreign Minister continued : "Our visit to Vietnam this time coincides the 30th Anniversary of the Bandung Conference. The developments over the past 30 years strengthen our confidence in our cause".

On 16 March 1985, Chairman of the Council of Minister Pham Van Dong received the Indonesian Foreign Minister, his wife and other Indonesian guests.



Chairman Pham Van Dong warmly welcomed Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja and his wife, saying that their visit had a positive impact on the current regional and international situation. Chairman Pham Van Dong highly appreciated the results of the talks between the two Foreign Ministers. He considered these results as an important factor contributing to the strengthening of relations of friendship and co-operation between Indonesia and Vietnam, to the solving of international issues in South East Asia.

Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja sincerely thanked Chairman Pham Van Dong for the cordial and significant reception granted to the Indonesian Foreign Minister and other delegates and for his warm feeling towards the Indonesian people and country.

Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja expressed his satisfaction on the results of his visit to Vietnam this time considering this as a good opportunity to exchange views on issues of mutual concern. He expressed his aspiration to strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation between Indonesia and Vietnam for the interests of both countries, contributing an important part to solving the problems concerning peace and stability in the region.

On 16 March 1985 in Hanoi, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja held a joint press conference.

Responding to the questions about the prospect for the relations between Indonesia and Vietnam, Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja said : "The Government of the Republic of Indonesia expresses the desire to develop the friendly relationship between Indonesia and Vietnam". He considered what have been done and what would be done in the economic and commercial cooperation, the training of scientific and technological cadres, exchange of governmental delegations etc... were extremely necessary for the interests of each countries and thus contributing to making South East Asia a zone of peace, stability, friendship and cooperation.

Asked about the role of the Republic of Indonesia on the situation in South East Asia, Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja stressed : "Although the countries in the region still have differences in certain questions we all agree that we must think of long-term future. We hold the unanimous view that there must be peaceful coexistence among South East Asian countries without any interference from outside".

#### - VIETNAMESE DEFENCE MINISTER'S VISIT TO INDONESIA

At the invitation of Indonesia's armed forces Chief, General Benny Murdani, a Vietnamese military delegation led by General Van Tien Dung paid a visit to Indonesia from April 13 to April 16, 1985.

The visiting Vietnamese military delegation visited several military zones and units on the ground, air and naval forces of Indonesia. Wherever it went, the delegation was warmly received by the Indonesian armed forces. The Indonesian friends wish that the relations between the armed forces and mass organizations of the two countries become closer in the favour of the national construction and security of each country. Many Indonesian officers and soldiers congratulated the Vietnamese army and people on the 10th Anniversary of the total liberation of South Vietnam.

- VIETNAMESE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S DELEGATION TO ALBANIA AND CUBA

\* A delegation of Vietnam's National Assembly led by Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho paid an official visit to Albania from March 21 to 28, 1985.

Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho held talks with members of the Central Committee of the Albanian Worker's Party and Chairman of the Albanian National Assembly.

The two sides informed each other about the situation in each country and exchanged points of view on international problems of mutual concern.

The talks took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

\* Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho paid a friendly official visit to Cuba in early April 1985.

Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho held talks with Flavio Bravo Pardo, President of Cuba's National Assembly of People's Power.

The two sides informed each other about the situation of their respective countries and exchanged views on the relations between the two countries, on international problems of mutual concern. Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho reaffirmed Vietnam's full support for the Cuban people's struggle against the U.S threat of aggression and hostile action. President F. B. Pardo once again expressed the unshakable solidarity of the Cuban people to the Vietnamese people in national construction and defence.

\* Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho paid an official visit to Nicaragua on April 14, 1985.

- VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S INTERVIEW WITH LE MONDE  
ON THE ISSUE OF AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION (MIA).

Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has recently been interviewed by James Burnett of Le Monde on MIA issue. The Foreign Minister said : "The MIA issue is a wound of war of the American people. But the wounds of war of the Vietnamese people are still greater and more serious. To get information about the Americans missing in action during the Vietnam war, it is indispensable to have cooperation with the Vietnamese local people who live in the regions where conflict took place either in the air or on the ground.

How can the United States request the Vietnamese people alone to be concerned with the wound of war of the United States while the United States is carrying out a hostile policy towards Vietnam and do not think of their responsibilities for the wounds of war of Vietnam".

**REMAINS OF FIVE AMERICAN MISSING IN ACTION**  
**HANDED TO THE UNITED STATES,**

The Vietnamese Office for seeking missing personnel in the war on March 20, 1985 handed over to the representative of the American Government the remains of five Americans missing in action in the Vietnam war. The representative of the U.S. Government expressed thanks and appreciated the humanitarian policy pursued by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in seeking Americans missing in action during the war.