

EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

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IN TRIBUTE TO LE DUAN, THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF
THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM.

FUNERAL ORATION IN TRIBUTE TO LE DUAN, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM.

Fellow countrymen and combatants throughout the country,
Comrades and friends,

Comrade Le Duan, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, brilliant leader of our party and loyal son of our people, is no more. This is an immense loss for our entire party and people. A fighter among the earliest militants of the party and eminent disciple of revered President Ho Chi Minh, comrade Le Duan gave his whole life to the cause of national liberation and reunification, to the freedom and happiness of the people and to the communist ideal. His active life which spanned nearly six decades was intimately linked to our country's revolutionary course from the nineteen twenties to the nineteen eighties. His activities took him to all regions of Vietnam, northern, central, southern and he weathered innumerable trials and hardships, in a constantly close relationship with activists, combatants and working people. From the late nineteen thirties to his demise, he was an important leader of the party and since 1960, in his capacity as first secretary and then general secretary of the Central Committee, he made significant contributions to the leadership of the party, taking our people's revolutionary cause from victory to victory.

The ideal and dream that inspired his whole life was an independent and reunified Vietnam with the people as masters of their country, of society and of their own existence.

A genuine Marxist-Leninist, constantly thinking and searching, he would base himself on reality to analyze and solve the new problems arising from life. His clearheadedness would particularly stand out at historic watersheds and complete junctures.

He always maintained an unwavering faith in the face of success as well as temporary setbacks, of the tides and ebbs of the revolution. In the dark years of U.S. Imperialism's neo-colonialist regime in the South, he clearly

visioned the possibility of victory for the people through the insurrectional movement of the masses.

Together with the political bureau and the central committee led by great President Ho Chi Minh, he charted the line and policies of the resistance wars for national liberation and the defence of the fatherland, devised and built up the Vietnamese revolutionary military science, defeating the wars of aggression waged by imperialism and other international reactionary forces and thus powerfully stimulating the struggle of peoples the world over against imperialism and colonialism, for independence and freedom.

After the total liberation of the south and the reunification of the fatherland that set the whole country on the path to socialism, he helped clarify many theoretical and practical problems so as to confirm and finalize the line of socialist revolution in our country proceeding, in the conditions of a backward agriculture, straight to socialism, bypassing the stage of capitalist development. Holding high the banner of national independence and socialism, he abided perseveringly by the principle of combining the strength of our nation with that of our times, the strength of our people with that of the world in order to carry out the dual strategic task of building and defending the fatherland.

Great are indeed the contributions that comrade Lê Duan has made to the revolutionary cause of our party and people.

By his long and richly active life, he has set a valuable example for the Vietnamese people, especially the Vietnamese communists:

An example of boundless loyalty to the supreme interest of the fatherland and of the people, to the lofty communist ideal, of fine revolutionary mettle manifested in his spirit of continuous revolutionary offensive. Overcoming all the tests and trials of imperialist prisons, of long, arduous years in different resistance bases and of years of activities in the areas under temporary enemy control, he always evinced an indomitable will, ready to sacrifice even his life for the independence and freedom of the fatherland, for the happiness of the people.

He has led a righteous and simple life, always close to his compatriots, showing an earnest and sincere affection for everyone, paying attention to the opinions and aspirations of the people. He attached special importance to summing

up the peoples' experiences, working out guidelines and policies on the basis of these valuable experiences.

Comrade Le Duan was at the same time a great patriot and a pure internationalist, who for a whole life always followed uncle Ho's example contributing to the consolidation and enhancement of solidarity among revolutionary and progressive forces of the world in their common struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism. Following great Lenin's path, that of the October Revolution, he paid constant attention to fostering and strengthening the special friendship, militant solidarity and all-round co-operation with the Soviet Union, building up special alliances with brotherly Laos and Kampuchea and with other countries of the socialist community. He constantly studied international revolutionary experiences and followed the daily developments of the world situation.

Comrade Le Duan is no more, but he will live forever in our party and people's revolutionary cause. The history of our country forever affirms his great services and brilliant contributions.

His example will shine forever.

Beloved and respected comrade Le Duan.

With great respect, we bow to bid you farewell and share with your family this grief. We swear to do our utmost to foster the unity and openness of mind of our entire party, people and armed forces around the Central Committee and Political Bureau, to strive to overcome the present difficulties, stabilize the situation in every aspect, take care of the people's livelihood, bring into full play the working people's right to collective mastery, speed up the three revolutions, carry out socialist industrialization, implement the dual strategic task of successfully building socialism and firmly defending the socialist fatherland, thus taking our people's glorious revolutionary cause to final victory./.

COMMUNIQUE OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE :

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam met in a special session here today to elect a new general secretary of the party in replacement of Le Duan who had just passed away.

In a solemn and moving atmosphere, the session bowed in silent respect to the memory of the late General Secretary Le Duan, an outstanding leader of the Vietnamese party and people.

The session also observed a minute of silent respect to comrade Hoang Van Thai, member of the Party Central Committee, General and Vice Minister of National Defence.

On behalf of the political bureau, Pham Van Dong, its member, proposed comrade Truong Chinh as the new General Secretary.

The Session unanimously elected Truong Chinh General Secretary of the Party Central Committee.

Speaking at the session, comrade Truong Chinh thanked the Central Committee for its trust in him. He called on the entire party, people and armed forces to strengthen their unity and openmindedness around the party Central Committee in order to ensure the successful implementation of the immediate important and imperative tasks, and take the revolutionary cause of our people to new victories.

BIOGRAPHY OF TRUONG CHINH :

Truong Chinh was born on 9th February 1907 in Hanh Thien village, Xuan Trung district, Nam Dinh province (now Xuan Hong commune, Xuan Thuy district, Ha Nam Ninh province).

In 1925 he joined the movement to demand the French colonialists to grant amnesty to the patriot Phan Boi Chau and in 1926 he was one of the leaders of the school striked in commemoration of the patriot Phan Chu Trinh in Nam Dinh. Following this strike he was expelled from school. In 1927 he joined the Vietnam Revolutionary Youth Association, a predecessor of the Indochinese Communist Party. In 1929 he joined the movement for the founding of the

Indochinese Communist Party in Tonkin (north Vietnam). In 1930 he was assigned to the Central Propaganda and Agitation Commission of the Indochinese Communist Party. At the end of that same year he was arrested by the imperialists, sentenced to 12 years of imprisonment and deported to Son La. At the end of 1936 due to the victory of the French Popular Front and the struggle of the Vietnamese people for democratic freedoms and the release of political prisoners, he was set free. From late 1936 to 1939 he engaged in legal and semilegal activities in Hanoi, was a member of the Tonkin regional committee of the Indochinese Communist Party and delegate of the party in the Tonkin Democratic Front Committee after the outbreak of the second World War, he went underground. In 1940 he was editor-in-chief of "Giai phong" (liberation), organ of the Tonkin regional committee of the Indochinese Communist Party. At the 7th session of the Central Committee of the Indochinese Communist Party, he was appointed to the central executive committee.

In 1941, at the 8th session of the party Central Committee, he was elected General Secretary of the party Central Committee, member of the Standing Committee of the Central Committee, head of the Propaganda and Training Department, editor in-chief of the "Co Giai Phong" (liberation flag), central organ of the party, and of the "Tap Chi Cong San" (communist review), political and theoretical organ of the party and also head of the party commission for agitation among workers. In 1943 he was sentenced to death in absentia by the military court of the French colonialists in Hanoi. In 1945 he headed the national committee for uprising set up by the party Central Committee. In 1951 at the second national congress of the party he was reelected to the Central Committee and was made General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers' Party (at this congress the Indochinese Communist Party changed its name into V.N. Workers' Party). In 1953, he was made head of the Land Reform Commission of the party Central Committee. In 1958, he was made vice-premier of the government and head of the State Commission for Science. In 1960, at the 3rd national congress of the party he was re-elected to the party Central Committee and member of the political bureau in charge of the national assembly work. In 1976, at the 4th national congress of the party, he was again elected to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (at this congress the Vietnam Workers' Party changed its name into Communist Party of Vietnam), he was made a member of the political Bureau in charge of the Central Commission for research in the party's history and the Theoretical Commission of the party Central Committee. In the same year, he was elected chairman of the Constitution Drafting Commission of the National Assembly of

the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Truong Chinh was a deputy to the national assembly second legislature (1960 - 1964), 3rd legislature (1964 - 71), 4th legislature (1971 - 1975), 5th legislature (1975 - 1976), 6th legislature (1976 - 1981) and is deputy to the present 7th legislature 1981. From the second to the 6th legislatures he was chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly. In 1981, he was elected by the national assembly to the post of President of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. In 1982, at the 5th national congress of the party, he was re-elected to the central committee and was a member of the political bureau.

On July 14, 1983 the special session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam elected him General Secretary of the Party Central Committee.

In 1982, due to his active participation in the revolutionary movement, his great contribution to the development and consolidation of the fraternal friendship and all-round cooperation between the people of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, he was awarded the Lenin Order by the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. Also in 1982, he was awarded the National Gold Order by the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The same year, he was awarded the Sukhe Bator Order by the Presidium of the Great Hural of the People's Republic of Mongolia. In 1984, he was awarded the diamond-Studded Flag Order by the Party and State of the People's Republic of Hungary. In 1985 he was awarded the Angkor Order by the party and state of the People's Republic of Kampuchea./.

SOME ASPECTS OF PRODUCTION IN VIETNAM:

PROSPECTS FOR SUMMER-AUTUMN RICE AND LATE-AUTUMN RICE.

Up to early June, in the whole country, nearly 1,150,000 hectares of ricefields have been ploughed, an increase of 12% over the same period last year; and nearly 888,200 hectares have been sown with Summer-Autumn and late-Autumn rice.

In the North, May downpours flooded 54,000 hectares of ricefields and more than 2,000 hectares under maize, tobacco and soya. A great deal of effort has been spent on draining the water-logged areas.

Rice crops have been suffering from damage by insects and diseases. In the North, more than 31% of the sown area has been affected. Damage has been particularly serious in Ha Nam Ninh (94,000 ha), Thanh Hoa (49,000 ha), Hai Hung (40,000 ha), and Thai Binh (39,000 ha). Between 21 and 28 May, the Ministry of Agriculture supplied nearly 70 tonnes of insecticides to the provinces affected, with resulting better insect control in June.

The situation is more favourable in the South, and work is going apace for soil preparation and sowing./.

FISHERY IN VIETNAM.

Vietnam has abundant aquatic resources. Its sea area exceeds one million square kilometres, with many fishing grounds. Its coast is more than 3,260 kilometres long and is dotted with thousands of offshore islands suited to the exploitation of sea products.

In addition, many marshes, ponds, lakes and rivers provide millions of hectares of water surface for the culture of aquatic and sea animals and plants.

Thanks to its tropical climate, Vietnam has many kinds of aquatic and sea products of high export value. The production circle is short and the market for consumption is broad.

However, formerly Vietnam's fishery was in a backward condition, its material and technical basis was poor and it completely depended on nature. Since the country was freed from the colonial and feudal regime, Vietnam's fishery has been built and thriving.

At first, the aquatic service only had a number of trawlers, the Hai Phong Fish Cannery, and some shops repairing and building small fishing-boats.

Today, besides centrally-run enterprises, all coastal provinces of Vietnam have their State-run fishing enterprises. The country's fishing service runs more than 900 fishing cooperatives and 1,800 production collectives with a fleet of trawlers totalling 480,000 horse-power, and 16,000 fishing boats totalling 65,000 tons.

The service has built a new system of refrigerating factories. A network

of work-shops for repairing ships and weaving nets is developing.

The aquatic service has four institutes of research on aquatic products and a network of stations for scientific research at provincial level. The application of scientific advances to production has increased productivity, quality and efficiency of aquatic products. Technical advances in insemination, the production of HCG stimulant and the transport of parent fish and breed fish, together with technical advances in cross-breeding and acclimatization have created fish of good quality such as hybrid carp of Hungaro-Vietnamese stock, tilapia nilotica, and Indian major carp.

They have contributed to solving the issue of breed fish and the structure of fish-rearing.

The application of artificial fecundation to shrimps and green-clawed prawns has opened bright prospects for shrimp-rearing in large areas on the Mekong and Red Rivers.

The technique of producing frozen shrimps and protection of materials have helped improve the quality and raise the quantity of shrimps. The production of fish sauce has developed, meeting the requirement of consumption at home and abroad.

Together with a large contingent of fishermen, the aquatic service now has tens of thousands of technical workers and technicians, nearly 4,000 university graduates and hundreds of post-graduates trained at home or abroad. This is the key force with nearly one million workhands engaged in production, trading and other activities of the whole service.

Though having to cope with many objective difficulties, the service has achieved an output of 808,000 tons of aquatic products, including those raised by fishing collectives. Its export products also have developed rapidly.

Credit for the development of Vietnam's fishery comes partly from the Soviet Union, other fraternal socialist countries and other nations and international organizations which have helped and cooperated with Vietnam in building and developing this industry.

Entering the 1986-90 period, Vietnam's fishery, which is still a small production enterprise, has to strive harder to implement the task of supplying more food to the people and cattle farms, raw materials for industry and export.

This will help in a more rational distribution of the population and workforce, and in improving the working and living conditions of fisher people.

By 1990, the Vietnamese aquatic service must raise its output to 1,100,000 tons including 700,000 - 750,000 tons of fish caught and 300,000 - 350,000 tons of fish raised, thus meeting the norms of 13.3 kilograms of fresh fish and 3.5 litres of fish sauce per head of population./.

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE K.P.R.A. (29 June 1986).

GLORIOUS TRADITION OF THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY.

To firmly defend national independence and revolutionary gains and gradually take the country to socialism are the main tasks of the Kampuchean revolution at the present stage in which defence is the foremost task.

These tasks have been defined by the 4th and 5th Congresses of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea.

Promoting the fine tradition and glorious cause of the former Issarak (Liberation) army, the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Army has so far successfully carried out these two tasks.

Since the victory of January 7, 1979, the Kampuchean armed forces, with the assistance of the Kampuchean people and in coordination with Vietnamese army volunteers, have foiled all plots and moves of the enemy and made considerable achievements in national defence and construction. Officers and soldiers of the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA) have promoted the spirit of serving the people's interests, respecting the people, helping and defending the people, fighting and making sacrifices for the people.

Kampuchea's history has gone through momentous events : within a short period of time, the country has been ruled by four different political and social systems, namely the feudal rule of Prince Sihanouk, the militarist administration of Lon Nol, the genocidal Pol Pot regime, and the present revolutionary power.

Under the first three regimes, the government and army were considered the people's father and ruler, especially under the Pol Pot regime, the army

was the people's butcher.

The social consequences left by the old regimes have had a great impact on people of all walks of life, even a number of revolutionary cadres and Party members. Manifestations of bureaucratism and a "big shot" attitude have become apparent. They are doing harm to national unity and the solidarity between the army and the people, and so should be severely criticized and done away with.

The January 7, 1979 victory in overthrowing the genocidal Pol Pot regime has led to the establishment of the revolutionary administrations first at the centre then at the grass-roots. The Kampuchean people have met with many difficulties in this work. Most of the revolutionary bases at the grass-roots were destroyed and genuine revolutionary cadres were killed under the Pol Pot regime, and were replaced by its Angka (leading organization) men who brutally controlled and ruled the people.

Persisting in his schemes against the PRK, the enemy has tried by all means, including violence and deception, to control and rule the people and develop his underground forces according to a strategic scheme.

That is why the mass agitation campaigns at the grass-roots and the establishment of the people's right of mastership should be the most important task of the Kampuchean revolution at the present stage to foil the enemy's dark scheme.

The Kampuchean revolutionary armed forces, in addition to their main task of fighting, must take an active part in the work of mass agitation and making the villages and hamlets strong. This task is put on a par with fighting, and in some localities it is even considered the foremost task.

The KPRA has since its foundation fought shoulder by shoulder with its strategic allies - Vietnam and Laos - especially with the Vietnamese army volunteers in Kampuchea.

Dealing with the special militant solidarity with Vietnam, the 4th PRPK Congress pointed out that Kampuchean history over the past half century has shown that when the ties between the Vietnamese and Kampuchean revolutions were close, the Kampuchean revolution won success after success. On the contrary, when they were broken by the enemy and narrow nationalism was stirred up, the revolution would sustain losses.

At present, reactionary forces seek to team up with international imperialists in an attempt to oppose the revolution in their own countries. That is why the revolution in each country should promote international solidarity, relying on the socialist community with the Soviet Union as the mainstay and eliciting support and assistance from progressive mankind.

Proceeding from this principle, the PRPK has constantly developed solidarity and comprehensive cooperation with the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries, considering them to be of strategic significance to the Kampuchean revolution.

We have paid great attention to fostering among the Kampuchea's revolutionary army the spirit of international solidarity on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, correctly combining the latter with genuine patriotism.

Thanks to a persevering education in many vivid forms, the spirit of internationalism among the Kampuchean revolutionary army has been heightened, and the militant alliance with the Vietnamese army volunteers has constantly been enhanced, in spite of the enemy's divisive schemes./.

DEFENCE MINISTER BOU THONG SPEAKS OF KAMPUCHEAN ARMY'S TASKS.

Bou Thong, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of National Defence, has granted an interview with Vietnam News Agency and Vietnam Radio on the 35th Tradition Day of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Army (June 19).

Asked about the lessons learnt from the building and fighting process of the KPRA, Bou Thong said :

The Kampuchean people's armed forces must be led by a genuine Marxist-Leninist Party. They must be trained and educated according to the working class's nature, must be loyal sons and daughters of the working people and ready to sacrifice their lives for the defence of the people and the Fatherland.

They must constantly promote and strengthen the special relationship, solidarity and strategic alliance between Kampuchea and Vietnam as well as

among Kampuchea, Vietnam and Laos and between Kampuchea and the socialist community with the Soviet Union as the mainstay. This is a firm guarantee for building the army, consolidating national defence and defending the Fatherland.

These lessons have been corroborated by realities in the revolutionary process of the Kampuchean people and army in different periods. They have been learnt with the blood of tens of thousands of cadres and combatants and of millions of patriotic Kampucheans who were killed by the genocidal Pol Pot regime, henchmen of the Beijing expansionists and hegemonists. These lessons still retain all their validity and will do so in the future, too.

On the tasks of the Kampuchean people's army at present, Bou Thong recalled the three strategic objectives of the present stage of the Kampuchean revolution set forth at the 5th Congress of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea (PRPK). They are :

- Increasing the offensive against the enemy both along the border with Thailand and inside Kampuchea, weakening the enemy and foiling all its wicked moves and designs.

- Strengthening the revolutionary power in all fields politically, militarily, and economically, enhancing the revolutionary gains and defeating all kinds of enemy in order to build an independent, peaceful, happy and prosperous Kampuchea.

- Developing the militant solidarity and special relations between Kampuchea and Vietnam and among the three Indochinese countries, as well as with other socialist countries with the Soviet Union as the mainstay.

To achieve these three objectives, the Kampuchean people and army are doing their utmost to foil all the dark schemes of sabotage by the Pol Pot remnants and other Khmer reactionary groups to defend the revival of the Kampuchean nation.

The 1984-85 dry season victories won by the Kampuchean army in coordination with Vietnamese army volunteers which resulted in the liquidation of all the hideouts of the Polpotists and other Khmer reactionaries along the Kampuchean-Thai border have further sapped the enemy's morale and struck a crushing blow at its armed forces. Following these momentous successes, the Kampuchean army together with the entire people are focussing efforts on building border-defence lines and strengthening the power of the revolution with the aim of defeating the enemy's land-grabbing attacks and subversive moves.

The 1984-85 military victories and the build-up of the border defence lines and the strengthening of inner stability have enabled the Kampuchean regular army and para-military forces to grow even more quickly and to assume ever heavier responsibility in the national defence task./.

OTHER NEWS AND INFORMATION :

ON VIETNAMESE ARMY VOLUNTEERS' PARTIAL WITHDRAWALS FROM KAMPUCHEA.

Part of Vietnamese Army Volunteers (VAV) will soon withdraw from Kampuchea by joint decision of the Vietnamese and Kampuchean Governments.

The first phase of Vietnamese Army Volunteers' partial withdrawal from Kampuchea took place in June 1981, two and a half years after the Kampuchean revolutionary forces, with the help of Vietnamese internationalist, toppled the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

The pull-out, involving Division 137, was witnessed, among others, by a film makers' group of the Japanese television corporation NDN led by its director Hitoshi Hattori. It was live broadcast to the whole world.

Since 1982, partial withdrawals of Vietnamese Army Volunteers from Kampuchea have been made annually in the presence of foreign reporters and cameramen. On July 14, 1982, six Army Volunteer units led by a colonel withdrew from Kampuchea. On May 2, 1983, the partial pull-out included the Cuu Long unit involving one infantry division and six brigades and regiments commanded by Colonel Vo Van Tan.

On June 6, 1984, Infantry Brigades 690 and 688, Regiment 550 and a number of independent battalions led by Colonel Nguyen Dai left Kampuchea. On April 3, 1985 Group of Divisions 52 including one division, Brigades 7703, 7706 and 9906 under the command of Major-General Huynh Huu Anh pulled out from Kampuchea. That was the biggest withdrawal since 1981.

So far one-third of the Vietnamese Army volunteers have withdrawn from Kampuchea.

These forces have successfully fulfilled their internationalist duty on

the fiercest battlefronts in western Kampuchea including Ta Sanh, Pailin, Phnom Melai and the tri-nation border area of Kampuchea, Laos and Thailand.

These pull-outs have substantiated the fact that the Kampuchean revolution, stronger with every passing day, is bound to win total victory and the Beijing-backed Khmer reactionary forces, are doomed to utter failure.

The partial withdrawals of Vietnamese Army Volunteers were carried out on an ever larger scale and in harmony with the constant growth of the Kampuchean revolutionary army and administration. In the 1984-85 dry season, the Kampuchean revolutionary armed forces and people, supported by VAVs overran 16 of the 17 major bases of the Pol Pot and other Khmer reactionary forces stationed along the Kampuchean-Thai border.

A defence line was built along the Kampuchean-Thai border by the Kampuchean army and people. With combat trenches and mine fields, the line has effectively contributed to preventing the Khmer reactionary forces from intruding into Kampuchea from their Thailand-based sanctuaries for sabotage activities.

The regular annual pull-outs of Vietnamese internationalist combatants have flatly rejected Beijing's slanders and fabrications against the militant solidarity and alliance between the three Indochinese countries in their struggle for national independence, freedom, security and prosperity of each country in the interests of world peace and security.

The annual withdrawals over the past five years have eloquently demonstrated the Indochinese countries' desire for peaceful settlement of the Kampuchean issue. Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos are striving for a peaceful, friendly, stable and cooperative South-East Asia./.

CHINA'S WAR AT VIETNAM'S BORDER-WHY?

On April 8, 1984, with the heaviest artillery shellings since its February 1979 invasion, China launched a land-grabbing war on Vietnam's northern border areas.

On the first days, the Chinese fired tens of thousands of artillery rounds at more than one hundred places in 32 areas in the six northern provinces, mainly Ha Tuyen. Many infantry regiments of the Kunming and Guangzhou military

Regions, under the cover of artillery, crossed the border to attack some heights in Vi Xuyen district (Ha Tuyen province), Trang Dinh (Lang Son province) and Ha Lang (Cao Bang province). Having sustained casualties at some places, Chinese troops had to run away...

The fiercest attacks took place in Vi Xuyen district where the Chinese occupied Heights 1509, 772, 233, 1030, 1250, 300, 400, and 2337 about two kilometres inside Vietnamese territory.

While conducting this criminal landgrabbing war, Chinese authorities told their people and soldiers that these operations were aimed at recovering China's territory occupied by Vietnam since the February 1979 war. They described acts of landgrabbing as "patriotic", "developing the tradition of the Chinese People's Liberation Army" and so on...

They try to placate public opinion by pleading that "Vietnam invades China" and "Chinese troops have to hit back in selfdefence". They try to make the world public believe that these were just border clashes between Vietnam and China.

This is but a pack of lies. In only 15 months, from April 1984 to June 1985, Beijing conducted five offensives against a narrow strip of land of not more than 20 square kilometres in Vi Xuyen district, Ha Tuyen province. They sent there eleven divisions belonging to the Military Regions of Kunming, Chengdu, Wuhan, Jinan and Fuzhou. (During the US war of aggression against Vietnam, the largest number of US combat-troops was 11 divisions).

In the "hottest" period, up to eight divisions of Chinese troops were poised in the area opposite Ha Tuyen province. With these forces combined with local army and border guard forces, Beijing launched hundreds of landgrabbing attacks big and small some of them involving army corps, and many others, division of regiment-size units.

In the same period, the Chinese fired nearly 1,300,000 artillery and mortar rounds on Vietnamese territory, an average of 100,000 rounds per month. On some days, they fired up to 50,000 rounds. From April 2 to April 27, 1984, they shelled 26 of 30 border districts, 125 of 150 border villages, and 28 border posts. At some places, the shells crashed about 20 kilometres inside Vietnamese territory, on towns and populated areas.

A little comparison : The highest number of artillery rounds fired in one day by US-Saigon troops in Quang Tri province in 1972 to help the infantry reoccupy the provincial capital was 30,000, where as the Chinese fired 50,000 rounds a day on Vi Xuyen district.

Alongside these military activities, Beijing has conducted 250 spy activities, 300 commando strikes, and nearly 100 intrusions to abduct or kill Vietnamese combatants and civilians.

These activities are coordinated with the war of sabotage and psychological war, inciting internal reactionaries to carry out activities against the Vietnamese administration. Beijing has dropped small mines on the Lo and Chay rivers, killing hundreds of Vietnamese civilians...

According to testimonies by captured Chinese soldiers, this land-grabbing war has been prepared for a long time. At the end of 1983, army corps of the Kunming and Guanzhou Military Regions were the first units to be poised north of the Vietnamese border.

Many Chinese airforce regiments were sent to the four airports near the border. Chinese leaders such as Deng Xiaoping and Hu Yaobang, and high-ranking officers of the Chinese army including the Defence Minister Zhang Aiping and the Chief of the General Staff Yang Dezhi came to the border to encourage their soldiers.

Why is Beijing conducting this land-grabbing war ?

During the US invasion of Vietnam, this country was a solid bastion shielding the southern part of China and helping China in her peaceful construction. After winning victory over the United States, Vietnam became a road-block to China's south-ward drive, namely into Indochina and South-East Asia.

By using the Pol Pot gang to attack Vietnam from the southwest and sending 600,000 Chinese troops to attack Vietnam from the north in February 1979, China wanted to remove this road-block. Failing in this attempt, it had to pull out, after taking more than 60,000 casualties, or ten per cent of its combat forces.

Since withdrawing its troops, China has not given up its ambition of grabbing Vietnamese territory. A new strategy was worked out to whittle down

this road block and eventually to break it : a multi-faceted war of sabotage. While continuing to nurture the Pol Pot remnants and other Khmer reactionaries, Beijing wants to bleed Vietnam in order to conquer it, and to conquer Kampuchea and Laos when it has the opportunities. Over the past five years, however, this strategy failed to bring the expected result. The Vietnamese and Kampuchean revolutions continue to advance.

The Khmer Rouge (Led by Pol Pot) and other Khmer reactionaries were dealt heavy blows, especially in the 1984-85 dry season.

At the Kampuchea-Thailand border, 16 of the 17 military bases of Pol Pot and other Khmer reactionaries were overrun.

Beijing began escalating the war. Military activities erupted along the Sino-Vietnamese border, beginning a new strategy : a land-grabbing war. There is nothing new in this trick, though. Beijing only repeats what it has done with many countries which have common borders with China, such as India, Burma, the Soviet Union, Bhutan and Sikkim. This time, the victim is Vietnam./.

LOATING DEATH THREAT FROM CHINA.

The Red River which traditionally bounds the Vietnamese and the Chinese together has, for more than one year now, been turned into a threat to the life of many innocent riparian inhabitants. The Chinese authorities have floated small deadly mines down the river.

Two latest victims are Nguyen Van Bien, a 22-year-old farmer, and Dinh Thi Nong, a 14-year-old schoolgirl, who got injured on June 13 and 17 respectively when stepping on such mines while walking down the river bank at the suburban Hanoi district of Tu Liem. The mines cut off their left feet, and injured their right legs and hands.

Although having been given intensive care at the Vietnam-GDR hospital in Hanoi, the two remain in critical conditions and may have lost their remaining legs as well.

Said Doctor Le Hung, 33, a veteran of the anti-US war now taking care of the victims : 'We are trying our best to save their remaining legs. Still, we cannot yet say anything for sure at the moment since the wounds are badly

infected, especially Bien's right leg. This type of mine is much more powerful than the leaf mines dropped by the US on the Ho Chi Minh Trail during the war."

Mine experts said that China's floating mine is often without fragments when exploded. It consists of a small charge of powerful explosive contained in a small plastic box. The box is often green or colour of muddy water with the marking "Made in China". It often floats about 20 to 30 cm (from 6 to 9 inches) below the water surface.

The Chinese began floating mines down-stream the revers flowing into Vietnam in 1985. By the end of last year, more than 100 explosions had been reported, killing 30 people and injuring 60 others in eight riparian provinces in North Vietnam.

The Chinese have, in addition, floated plastic bags containing items of daily use into Vietnam. These psy-war items include toys. Most victims of the mines have so far been children. They were hit by mines when waddling the water for toys or trying to open box-like mines which they took for toys.

Dinh Thi Hong, a 14-year-old 6th form schoolgirl in Tu Liem district of Hanoi, lay bundled up in white bandage in the hospital bed. The look of stark horror still stood out on her pale face. Her mother recalled:

"She was picking fire wood along the river. Seeing a twig floating by, she ran down for it and stepped on a floating mine nudged at the bank. One of her feet was blown off."

Looking down at her daughter's left leg now cut close to the knee, the mother choked with tears. "She is very gentle. I didn't ask her to go to the river and fetch fire wood but she insisted that I let her do. Her father is disabled and her grand-mother, bed-ridden. I work alone to feed eight mouths. So she went to help me in the field right from the first days of this Summer vacation," she said.

Lying a few beds from Hong is Nguyen Van Bien, 22, also a native of Tu Liem district. He had barely returned home from military service for ten days when he lost his left leg to a floating mine while fishing on the reverside. He kept saying to his visitors, "Poor me ! I had been dreaming of becoming a worker after my military service. But now, even that simple dream would seem impossible."/.

CHINESE ARTILLERY KILLS VIETNAMESE CHILDREN.

The incident took place in Quyet Tien commune, Quan Ba district in the northern province of Ha Tuyen bordering China.

Quyet Tien lies in a valley surrounded by steep rocky mountains. The commune has a basic general school, 16 km from the borderline as the crow flies.

On the occasion of the International Children's Day (June 1), the school held a summer camp for children in the play ground of the school.

At 3.00 p.m. Chinese troops suddenly fired hundreds of artillery rounds at the camp while the pupils were preparing for the festive day. Sixteen 130-mm artillery rounds fell on the school area and two others on the children's camp, instantly killing two girls, and seriously wounding one teacher and five other pupils. The two wounded girls are Chao U May, 8, of the Zao ethnic minority, and Vang Thi Pin, 10, of the Nung ethnic minority, both at the first form. Nguyen Thi Hung, 16, a 4th grader of the Tay minority, had both legs broken. Sport instructor Lu Thin Phu, 26, of the Nung minority, was hit by shrapnels at his shoulder.

This is not the first time the Chinese shelled this school. On August 9, 1984, Chinese troops had destroyed a class-room, and on August 14, 1984 they again fired at the school compound./.

THE US AND ASEAN STILL SHOW MUDDLED THINKING.

The US and ASEAN countries continue to show their muddled thinking about the situation in Kampuchea and in the Indochinese peninsula as a whole, where far-reaching changes have been taking place in keeping with the laws of history.

The biased US-ASEAN approach to the Kampuchea issue is glaring in the press communique of the recent ASEAN foreign ministers' conference in Bali, Indonesia, and on their recent meeting with President Reagan there.

On the so-called Kampuchea issue, ASEAN countries have expressed their support for the "eight-point peace plan" which had been churned out in Beijing and is being peddled by its henchmen, the three Khmer reactionary factions as a "real effort of the Coalition Government to solve the Kampuchea issue."

They even proposed that Vietnam take part in direct or indirect negotiation with the Kampuchean genocidal criminals.

Meeting with President Reagan, the representatives of ASEAN countries asked Washington to back up their efforts to find a "peaceful solution" to the conflict in Kampuchea.

People still remember that the US did comply with ASEAN's demands, mostly raised by the "frontline country" Thailand, by giving five million dollars in aid to the remnants of the Khmer reactionaries' armed forces.

ASEAN has revealed its intention to erase the gains of the Kampuchean revolution and to help the genocidal gang come back to power in a country where they had been toppled by the victims of their atrocities.

How can there be "national concord" between the Satans and their victims? The ASEAN demand is therefore extremely unreasonable. It is a deliberate act of interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. The US President reportedly voiced support for the ASEAN's erroneous stance regarding the "eight-point plan" raised by the three Khmer reactionary groups, considering it a "step further."

On the other hand, the US continue to gang up with the expansionist forces to put pressure on Vietnam in a bid to weaken and force it to give up its internationalist duties towards Laos and Kampuchea.

The pressure, however, has proved futile. It is regrettable that the US and ASEAN still nurture the illusion of a total victory for the Khmer reactionary factions./.

MANILA COMMUNIQUE : A SHOP-WORN ALLEGATION.

The communique issued by ASEAN countries' Manila conference is an anachronistic allegation charging Vietnam and the other Indochinese countries with being "intransigent in the Kampuchean issue."

The Manila communique high appreciation of the so-called "eight-point proposal" masterminded by China is actually aimed at paving the way for the Polpotists to come back to Kampuchea. To back that proposal is to back a

genocidal clique who are guilty of bloody crimes against the Kampuchean people and who are continuing to serve as a henchman of the imperialist and expansionist forces.

The resolution of the Seventh Summit of the Non-Aligned countries on leaving vacant the Kampuchean seat pending a solution to the Kampuchean issue is a correct resolution, stemming from the practical situation and embodying an objective consideration of the Kampuchean issue within the framework of Southeast Asia.

It is a pity that some ASEAN countries, which fail to realize that the expansionists and hegemonists, not Vietnam, are the threat to them and to Southeast Asia as a whole, have lent a hand to the expansionists and hegemonists and imperialists. They are contradicting themselves. However, all allegations, distortions and pressures against the three Indochinese countries cannot lead to the right way to achieve an acceptable solution to the Kampuchean issue, but only delay a solution.

Only through dialogues and genuine, not professed, goodwill based on a correct assessment of realities and on good sense can a solution be found to the Kampuchean issue, which will meet the aspiration and interests of all nations in the region and help turn Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability and cooperation./.