

EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
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CONTENTS

I- 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETE VICTORY OF THE ANTI-U.S. RESISTANCE WAR FOR NATIONAL SALVATION

- * Secretary General Le Duan's Speech at the Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of Victory over U.S. Imperialist Aggression.
- * Interview with Vietnam's Foreign Minister.

II- 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT VICTORY OVER FASCISM

- * Message of Congratulations to the Soviet Union.
- * Grand Meeting in Hanoi to Celebrate the Great Victory.
- * A Formidable Front Against the Belligerent Militarist Forces.

III- 95TH BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION OF LATE PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

IV- THAI HOSTILITIES AGAINST INDOCHINESE PEOPLES CONDEMNED

- * New Thai Provocations Against Laos Condemned.
- * Vietnam's Foreign Ministry Rejects Thai Slander.
- * Thai Provocations Against Kampuchea Condemned.

V- FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION

- * Vietnamese Government's Statement on Summit Meeting of Warsaw Treaty Member Countries.
- * Celebration on 30th Anniversary of the Bandung Conference.
- * Vietnamese Parliamentary Delegation's Visit to the U.S.S.R.
- * Cuban Foreign Minister's Visit to Vietnam.
- * Vietnam in Support of Nicaragua.
- * Vietnam's Foreign Ministry Rejects U.S. Absurd Demand.

I- 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETE VICTORY OVER U.S. IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION,

Speech delivered by Le Duan, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, at the grand meeting held in Hanoi on April 29, 1985 to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Complete Victory of the Anti-U.S. Resistance for National Salvation :

Comrades and Friends,
Dear Foreign guests,

Today, the people and combatants throughout our country, together with the people of the fraternal countries and the whole progressive mankind, jubilantly celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Great Victory of the historic Ho Chi Minh Campaign in Spring 1975, which crowned our Anti-U.S. Resistance for National Salvation.

Ten years have passed since the complete liberation of South Vietnam and the reunification of the country. Time and facts ever since have further deepened our perception of the historic confrontation between the Vietnamese nation and U.S. imperialism as well as of the significance and causes of the victory of our resistance war.

The Anti-U.S. Resistance for National Salvation is the biggest trial for the Vietnamese nation since the one-thousand-year-long brutal enslavement by Northern feudalism before and after the christian era.

In the past, our nation was the victim of a brutal policy of assimilation and obscurantism of ancient and medieval times. Today, it is the barbarity of an imperialist power which styles itself as the most "civilized" in the world and which used the utmost of its strength and almost all the latest achievements of science and modern technology for extermination and enslavement purposes. The dark design of the United States was to turn Vietnam into a testing ground for its world-wide battle against the national liberation movement and socialism.

For their national survival and well conscious of their historical mission towards other nations, our people have accepted all sacrifices and courageously confronted U.S. imperialism, foiling its war strategies one after another and eventually defeating completely its neo-colonialist war of aggression, the biggest, longest and fiercest war since World War Two.

The Victory over U.S. imperialism is the greatest epic in the millennial history of national construction and defence of the Vietnamese people. This resounding victory has put a definitive end to the Western imperialist rule which had lasted 117 years in Vietnam, redressed our humiliation and grievous experience of an enslaved nation, marked a great turning-point in our national history and ushered our country in the era of independence, freedom and socialism.

The Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the outcome of the August 1945 Revolution, was firmly defended throughout the two resistance wars, first against the French colonialists and then against the U.S. imperialists. Today, it has become the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, a staunch member and a strong outpost of this side of the Pacific of the socialist community and a positive factor of peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The Vietnamese people's victory over the U.S. aggressors is one of the greatest events in modern history. This victory has smashed the U.S. imperialists' fiercest counter-attack on the revolutionary forces since World War Two. It helped weaken the imperialist system, increased the strength and offensive posture of the three revolutionary currents, generated a new, world-wide movement for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism, and strongly encouraged the struggle for national liberation in many Asian, African and Latin American countries to move forward and win new successes.

In Indochina, the victory of our country together with those of Laos, and Kampuchea have strengthened the strategic and militant alliance between the three fraternal nations and led to the formation of a single common territory of three fraternal countries together advancing to socialism and closely bound to the Soviet Union and the other members of the socialist community. This great result is exerting an increasingly profound influence on peace and national independence in Southeast Asia as well as on the general situation in Asia and the world.

Comrades and Friends,

We have won in the resistance war against U.S. aggression because ours is a just cause and because we dared to fight and knew how to fight and how to win, so that the longer we fought the stronger we became and eventually we were strong enough to over-power the enemy and crush his aggressive will.

Our strength is not just military strength, still less the strength of weapons and money alone. It is the sum total of our military, political, social and cultural strength, the strength of the whole country and people fighting the enemy on both the frontline and in the rear. It is a high-level promotion of all factors - ideological, moral, material and technological - and the combination of the organizational talent in leadership and command with the combat capacity and dynamism of our people and armed forces.

Our strength is the invincible strength of the Vietnamese revolution accumulated through nearly half a century of struggle under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Great President Ho Chi Minh. It is the crystallization of the combative tradition and strategic talent of our ancestors. But above all, it is the strength of our working people exercising their mastery in the new era, and the strength of our nation combined with that of our time.

For several millenia past, the community of ethnic groupings in this country have conducted many fights against aggressive forces to defend national independence and unity and preserve and build their beautiful culture. A battle-hardened nation, the Vietnamese have early acquired the sense of mastery of their country, are animated by ardent patriotism and great heroism and asserted their own noble spiritual values.

In the process of their struggle under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam and in the light of Marxism-Leninism, the Vietnamese people, first of all the working people, have step by step absorbed progressive ideologies and the quintessence of mankind and perceived more and more clearly their role of master of their national destiny, the process of social evolution and their own right to life, and in fact, have stood up to become the master of the country and society. That has also been a process of their growing awareness of their mission in the common revolutionary cause of the world people.

The Vietnamese revolution from the success of the August Revolution to the victory of the resistance against the French colonialists, already mingled with the three great currents of our time, representing the trend of development from national independence to socialism, actively contributing to the world people's revolutionary cause while being reinforced by the revolutionary forces of our time. When the U.S. imperialists launched their war of aggression, the Vietnamese revolution already was possessed of the strength of the working people in a position of mastery, of a nation determined to fight and to win, a strength which made one with the strength of the three revolutionary currents of our time.

Our winning strength is actually the strength of the banner of national independence and socialism upheld by our Party over since its founding, the strength of the line of deploying simultaneously and in close combination two revolutionary strategies in the two zones of the country during the fight against the U.S. aggression for national salvation : the people's national democratic revolution in the South and the socialist revolution in the North, with one and the same objective of achieving national liberation and national reunification and advancing the whole country to socialism. This line clearly charts out the road forward of our country, cleverly combining our people's fundamental demands with the objectives of our time, thus enabling us to win the great assistance of the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries and the heart-felt support of the revolutionary movements and progressive people throughout the world, including the progressive American people.

Vietnam's strength has been heightened and multiplied by the strength of our time. The resistance of Vietnam was actually the merger of the nation and the era. Our victory is also the victory of the revolutionary and progressive forces in the world, of the international solidarity we have enjoyed from our brothers and friends across the world.

Our winning strength is the invincible strength of Vietnam People's War, including the people's war for national liberation in the South and the people's war for national defence in the North. The people's war for national liberation in the South was an all-round and protracted war conducted by the entire population along the consistent strategy of offensive with our composite strength, seizing control in order to attack and attacking to seize control, winning victory step by step before seizing complete victory. This was both a military and political war, combining fighting with uprisings, a war in which the three categories of armed forces were the core for the entire people to fight against the enemy, a war fought in two forms : the local people's war and the war fought by main force units, a war fought by three sprongs of assault and on all the three strategic regions. The fighting art consists in using small units to oppose/a numerous army, and all localities, all hamlets, villages, districts and provinces and the whole country seizing control to fight the enemy, and every citizen, young and old, men and women, fighting or taking part in the fight, using all weapons they could procure and fighting in their own ways, knowing how to limit the enemy's strong points and to develop our strong points, forcing the enemy to passively accept our own way of fighting, always taking the initiative of attack and creating a stronger posture and strength than that of the enemy.

The decisive factor of our victory is the leadership of our Party, the battle-hardened and sagacious fighting vanguard of the Vietnamese working class and people. Firmly grasping the revolutionary and scientific character of Marxism-Leninism, our Party has worked out a correct, creative, independent and sovereign line, successfully solving many problems of strategies and tactics revolutionary methods and military art in a special stage of our country's history. By all its practical deeds, our Party has mobilized, trained and developed to the highest level our people's revolutionary capabilities and creativeness, at the same time effectively capitalized on the strength of our time to increase our fighting force, thus creating the biggest possible force to defeat the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression.

/big units, using a small army to oppose/

Comrades and Friends,

In the last ten years, our people have carried out a difficult and complicated struggle, recorded new exploits, and new successes, thus creating a firm posture and mighty force to go forward and successfully materializing the cause of building and defending our socialist homeland.

Not long after we set about building socialism, our people had to take arms against an invasion by the expansionists and their lackeys, and have defeated two wars provoked by them at the South Western and Northern borders, thus firmly safeguarding the revolutionary gains. At the same time, we have fulfilled our obligation of helping the Lao people to build and defend their country, helping the Kampuchean people to smash the genocidal Pol Pot regime, track down the remnants of the Khmer reactionaries in order to rebuild their country and bring their nation back to life.

These great successes have initially defeated the schemes of the Chinese ruling circles. But they have not yet reconciled themselves to defeat. Expansionism and hegemonism is a long-term danger to our country.

Our people must remain vigilant at all time, each hour and each minute. So long as the aggressive forces have not abandoned their dark schemes, our people have to increase our defence capacities stand ready to fight to firmly defend our Motherland's frontiers and fulfil our obligation to our two fraternal neighbouring countries.

The cause of socialist building, a new and difficult task, our people have shown their courage and creative talent. Having upheld their mastery in the fight for independence and freedom our people have displayed it on a higher level in the system of collective mastery, generating initial but very important changes for our society.

In the whole country, the working people's socialist collective mastery in politics has been quickly established. The exploiter strata have been basically abolished the majority of the peasantry and other working people have joined the collective path. The socialist production relations continue to be established and consolidated.

The wounds of war have been healed, the economy has been restored. In recent years, noticeable progress has been made in agricultural and industrial production, especially food production. The economic structure is being rearranged. The managerial apparatus has been streamlined, and science and technology are more and more associated with economy, production and construction.

Quick development has also been scored in education, culture and health care and the old-regime culture is being gradually eradicated. Through the socialist revolution, the Vietnamese person has seen a new development, qualitatively, sentimentally and intellectually.

Life remains hard but our people's needs have been met in the most essential domains. The living standard in many rural areas has been bettered. National defence and security have been ensured. Millions of working people have been given jobs according to the new redistribution of the work-force. Millions of hectares of land and large sea areas have been reclaimed or exploited and hundreds of major projects have been built, and the scientific and technical basis of the economy has been further strengthened.

Our people in the North, promoting their revolutionary awareness and zeal, have made worthy contributions to the whole country. Our people in the South who are enthusiastically and steadily advancing on the socialist path, have demonstrated their dynamism and creativeness in many fields. Throughout the country there have emerged

more and more units and localities with an all-round and leaping progress, and a number of branches at the central level have begun effectively conducted their business.

Realities have proved the correctness of the line on socialist revolution and on the building a socialist economy set forth at the 4th Congress of the Party as well as the realism of the major targets and policies for the initial stage of the transition period laid down by the 5th Party Congress.

Our achievements might have been bigger if the Party's policies had been better concretized and implemented if experience had been summed up in time in order to redress our shortcomings and errors in the reorganization of the economic structure, in managerial work, in enhancing the people's right to collective mastery in production, in distribution, circulation and consumption, and in the ideological, cultural organizational and cadre work. In recent years, we have made important progress in overcoming shortcomings, have better grasped the Party's line and better realized the country's economic situation as well as the law of development of our nation.

In the years to come, we shall continue our efforts to make the economy and society stabilize and develop along the socialist lines, to overcome the immediate obstacles in order to lay a basis for successfully implementing the objectives set for the initial stage and embarking on the following stage as a precondition to set up socialist industrialization.

To that end, a correct economic structure must be built on the basis of the streamlining and reorganization of the present economy in close association with stepped up socialist transformation. We have to rationally combine industry with agriculture, balance production with the infrastructure, harmoniously develop the grass-root economy, the local economy and the national economy, make use of all economic sectors in production, harmoniously co-ordinate production, distribution, circulation and consumption, closely associate the national economy with the world economy through cooperation with the Soviet Union and the entire Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, and through increased export and import operations and economic transactions with foreign countries.

We must urgently build the districts into agro-industrial economic units and the major cities into industrial centres of regional and national importance and at the same time promote the role of the grass-roots as the foundations, the very important role of the provinces and the key role of the economic and technical branches. Collective mastery must be exercised and all the three levels: in the whole country, in the localities and at the grass-roots and at each echelon, this mastery must also be exercised together by all its three respective levels.

The managerial mechanism must continue to be renovated and perfected step by step. We must always make planning the central task and the strongest economic lever, and closely associate planning with economic accounting and socialist business. We must combat bureaucratism, and the obsolete government-subsidized method of management together with the tendency to run after the unorganized market. Efforts should be made to strongly release all productive forces, quickly apply scientific and technical advances to production and businesses and increase productivity, quality and effectiveness.

The grass-roots and localities' initiative in production and business must be expanded along with a corresponding heightening of their responsibilities and obligations to the whole country and strict upholding of the principles of a centralized and unified socialist economy so as to ensure that the most important source of accumulation remains in the hand of the central government.

Discipline must be upheld in all economic, cultural and social activities. Each labourer, each grass-root unit and each locality must work with discipline and in accordance with the state plan, and abide by law in their life. The labouring people's material interests must be given strong incentives and the localities interests must be satisfactorily met. But it should be clearly born in mind that only when the whole country is independent and free can each person become his own master and can each locality live in prosperity and peace, and only with a developed national economy can each locality have conditions to prosper and the life of each citizen be improved.

The streamlining of the economic structure and the reorganization of the managerial mechanism must aim first of all to advance agriculture to large-scale socialist production.

We have to promote the encouraging achievements already scored in agricultural production, concentrate efforts on developing agriculture comprehensively and at a high tempo on the basis of stepping up intensive cultivation and increasing and diversifying the crops together with a better use of the work force and land in order to expand the areas under cultivation, to develop stock-breeding, and solve the food and food-stuff problems alongside the expansion of industrial crops.

The existing capacity of our industry must be brought into full play while newly-built projects must be effectively utilized in order to effect a real turnaround in industrial production including small industries, handicrafts, heavy industry, light industry, and food industry, so that industry may have a direct impact on agriculture and push agriculture ahead at vigorous and steady steps.

A very imperative and fundamental task now is to establish the socialist order in the distribution and circulation of commodities. The state must control the social market on the basis of an expanding production and take positive steps to solve the questions of price, wages and money in order to reduce difficulties, and improve the living conditions of the workers, public employees and the armed forces, and to provide our economic operations with reliable yard-sticks and bring into full play the role of distribution and circulation as a economic lever.

We must perfect the machinery of economic and cultural management in a way conformable to the economic structure and managerial mechanism, ensure the right to collective mastery of the working people under the leadership of the party and the management of the state. The party is the leader, the people are the masters and the state is the manager. All these three factors are indispensable and must be coordinated. That is actually the essence of proletarian dictatorship. Collective mastery is not just a production relationship. It is also a productive force. It is the greatest motive force to get the working people to enthusiastically work with discipline and with technical skills and to eagerly engage in study and research to create more and more cultural and material values for the country and for themselves. All our efforts must be aimed at rousing up a real revolutionary movement of the masses, to build their own regime of collective mastery.

Dear comrades and friends,

In these days, all nations are recalling the great exploit of the heroic Soviet people and army in their great patriotic war which played the decisive role in destroying German fascism and Japanese militarism.

With that historic victory the Soviet people and armed forces have written the most brilliant and glorious pages of our time, saved all nations in the world from the fascist danger, saved the civilization of the human kind, and ushered in a period of unprecedentedly glorious development of the world revolution.

The success of the August Revolution in our country, which led to the birth of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was inseparable from the Soviet Union's victory over fascism. From then on, all achievements in our fights for national salvation as well as in national construction and defence have always been linked with the strong support and valuable assistance from the Soviet Union.

On the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Victory over fascism, the Vietnamese people extend to the Soviet people their warmest congratulations and express their deep gratitude toward the fraternal Soviet people and wish them, under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Central Committee of the CPSU headed by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, still greater successes in perfecting developed socialism so that the land of Lenin may further develop its role of the firm pillar of peace and the reliable mainstay of the world revolution.

Fascism has been defeated, but the U.S.-led bellicose forces are planning frenzied acts against the Soviet Union, the socialist system, the international communist movement, the movement for national independence and all peace and freedom-loving countries. In fact, they are preparing acts of intervention and aggression in many regions. They are intensifying the nuclear arms race, including in the outer space, in an attempt to regain military supremacy, thus seriously threatening peace and security of nations.

The defence of world peace imperatively demands the coordination of efforts of all countries, political movements, organizations of the working people and the forces of national independence democracy and peace in order to build up a broad movement to effectively prevent the nuclear arms race, ward off the danger of a new world war, and defeat the bellicose and aggressive plans of the imperialists and their henchmen.

On the international labour day, we extend to the working class and all working people on our planet the Vietnamese people's warmest greeting and our firm belief that the great masses of working people united with the peace-loving forces will certainly triumph over the dark bellicose forces, not allowing them to start a new world war and fan up the flame of regional wars.

Upholding the peace banner of the Great Lenin, the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries are persisting in their policy of easing the international situation, preserving peace, preventing a nuclear war and preventing the breaking of the present strategic military equilibrium. The Soviet Union has put forth many peace initiatives aimed at achieving disarmament and nuclear disarmament. We warmly welcome and support comrade M. Gorbachev's March 2, 1985 statement and the new Soviet proposals at the resumed Soviet-U.S. talks.

More than anyone else, the Vietnamese people desire a lasting peace. We persist in the policy of holding dialogues in good faith among the countries and sides in Southeast Asia in order together to settle issues on the basis respecting each other's fundamental national rights and non-interference from outside and to build a peaceful, stable, friendly and cooperative Southeast Asia. All obstacles put up to oppose the Kampuchean people's revival and oppose the trend of dialogue and the restoration of peace and stability in Southeast Asia must be removed.

Our people always treasure the friendship with the Chinese people. Our country is ready to normalize relations with China and are making persistent efforts in this direction. However, we will resolutely retaliate against all acts of land grabbing and other acts of multi-faceted sabotage against our country.

Our people highly valued and still value the solidarity shown us by the progressive Americans at the height of the Vietnam war. We extend them our friendly greetings.

Our country is ready to normalize our relations with the United States in the interests of the two countries and of peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

Together with other peoples in Asia and the Pacific, our people are watchfully following the multi-sided cooperation among the bellicose, expansionist and militarist forces which are scheming to form a new front against the socialist countries and the countries struggling for national independence in this vast region. Let those who are attempting to step in the ruts of fascism draw the lesson of the past. Should they blindly start new adventures, they would certainly meet with humiliating defeats.

Our people have done our utmost to promote the fine relations between our country and the non-aligned movement with India as President, thus contributing to the vast struggle of nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America aimed at firmly defending and completing national independence, developing their economies and societies and safeguarding peace in each region and the world as a whole.

Comrades and Friends,

On this glorious festive day, we feel all the prouder of our heroic people, the author of this great revolution who have made noble and great sacrifices, who have devoted all their mental energy and physical strength to the complete victory and who are now courageously working for the building and defence of their fatherland.

We are proud of our heroic armed forces, issued from the people and bound to the people like flesh to blood, who have fought with matchless valour and intelligence, devised innumerable original ways of fighting and recorded marvelous exploits, and who are holding firmly their guns to defend the country's border and discharge our internationalist duty in fraternal countries.

Many centuries have passed but the Vietnamese generation after generation continue to admire the services of Trung Sisters, lady Trieu, Ngo Quyen, Ly Thuong Kiet, Tran Hung Dao, Le Loi, Quang Trung and many other national heroes and heroines of the past. Their hearts are filled with immense pride as they recall the names of Ham Tu, Chi Lang, Dong Da and other resounding victories of our forefathers.

Time will pass, but all the future Vietnamese generation will never forget the glorious exploits of the Ho Chi Minh era, the "Nphe Tinh Soviet", the August Uprising of 1945, the Dien Bien Phu Victory and the Great Victory of Spring 1975.

The present and future generations will forever remember all the heroes, the heroines and combattants who have laid down their lives in prisons and on the field of honour, all our combattants and countrymen who have shed their blood to win victories, bringing glory to our beloved country and honour to our nation.

All of us will forever recall the great services of the Great President Ho Chi Minh, the beloved leader of our Party and nation, the first Vietnamese communist, the number one citizen of the independent, unified and socialist Vietnam, whose entire life is linked with the glorious page of history of the Vietnamese revolution ever since the founding of the Party and with our people's glorious cause of resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

With boundless gratitude, our entire Party, people and armed forces are turning our thoughts toward President Ho. We are extremely proud to have brilliantly implemented his last recommendations. Today, we all feel as if he were with us here on the day of victory.

The revolution at the present stage still meets with many difficulties and hardship, our people's life remains hard but our revolution is steadily forging ahead. In no period of our history has our country faced so bright prospects as today. Upholding proletarian dictatorship, bringing into full play the right to collective mastership, stepping up the three revolutions, doing our utmost to take surmount the immediate socio-economic difficulties and going forward steadily, that is a work of historic significance and also the everyday deed and thought of the entire Vietnamese nation and of each Vietnamese. In this great work, more than ever before, the revolution is the festive day of the masses.

In the past, imbued with the spirit "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" our people have fought and won.

Today, giving full play to that spirit and taking it to a still higher level, our people vow to defend our independence and freedom forever, to build ours into a powerful socialist country in keeping with Uncle Ho's sacred testament :

"Our mountains will always be, our rivers will always be, our people will always be,
The American invaders defeated, we will rebuild our land ten times more beautiful".

All for the socialist homeland and for the people's happiness !

Let the entire Party, people and armed forces courageously march forward !

- Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach's Interview with "NHAN DAN"
Correspondent on May 19, 1985,

Q : On the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Liberation of South Vietnam, hundreds of Foreign reporters visited Vietnam. They put many questions to you. Will you please point out what were the most interested questions ? And what were your answers to them ?

A : They were interested in the Kampuchean question most. But the questions they asked this time were different from those in the years of 1979-80. And this fact reflected the miraculous rebirth of the Kampuchean people which had changed the opinion of the West on the Kampuchean question. They were no more in doubt of the irreversibility of the Kampuchean situation. And there were no more than few people who doubted our annual partial troop withdrawals from Kampuchea.

Q : What did they ask about the Kampuchean question ?

A : They asked whether Vietnam could withdraw unilaterally from Kampuchea earlier than 5 or 10 years' time. I answered that the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers 10 or 15 years after defeating the genocidal Pol Pot clique in 1979 was a remarkable achievement in comparison with the fact that U.S. troops still remained in the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan 40 years after defeating the German fascists and the Japanese militarists. Even now, it is not known when U.S. troops will withdraw from the F.R.G. and Japan.

Some people thought that Vietnam made a mistake not to condemn the genocidal crimes of the Pol Pot clique during their years in power from 1975 to 1978. It is true that Vietnam did not condemn them publicly then. But when we knew that we could not by peaceful means stop their untold crimes against the Kampuchean and Vietnamese peoples, we had no choice but to use force to overthrow them to carry out our legitimate self-defence right, and to save the Kampuchean people. The Western countries had early condemned the genocidal crimes of the Pol Pot clique, but it is unforgivable when the West knew clearly the crimes of the Pol Pot clique, they still support this genocidal gang in opposing to the rebirth of the Kampuchean people and the legitimate right to self-defence of the Vietnamese people.

They asked what factor decided the annual partial withdrawals and the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea in 1995. On the Vietnamese side, it is the policy of respecting independence and sovereignty of the Kampuchean people. On the Kampuchean side, it is the deep hatred of the Kampuchean people towards the genocidal regime of Pol Pot, which killed millions of Kampuchean people in just few years in power. That factor is the iron-like determination of the Kampuchean people not to let the barbarous Pol Pot clique return to Kampuchea once again.

The most cherished aspiration of the Kampuchean people is to become the real masters of their rich country and step by step shoulder the task of defending their beautiful homeland. All the above-mentioned feelings reflect the great vitality of the Kampuchean people who had created the Angkor civilization famous the world over. These factors have created the favourable conditions for the Vietnamese troops to withdraw gradually and completely at last from Kampuchea.

Q: Did they ask about the possibility of a political solution to the Kampuchean question?

A: Yes, they did. At present, most countries have similar stands towards fundamental questions for a political settlement to the Kampuchean problem. The first and most fundamental question is the elimination of the genocidal Pol Pot clique and the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea. The second question which has very important significance is that other countries must respect the national rights of the Kampuchean people and most countries welcome an arrangement between the People's Republic of Kampuchea and Siهانouk. The third question is that South-East Asian countries peacefully co-exist and co-operate in the framework of a peaceful and stable South East Asia. The fourth question is that other countries must respect the national rights of the South-East Asian countries. There must not be aggression against and interference in the internal affairs of these countries. Most countries have similar position that there should be a kind of international guarantee and a form of international control of the agreed provisions. But in details, there are still differences, for example: the elimination of the Pol Pot clique, the form of international control etc... On the elimination of the Pol Pot clique, the Indochinese countries and their friends hold that they must be eliminated by all means, they must be disarmed and the top leaders must be punished. But there are some countries who want to exclude the Pol Pot clique through elections - On the form of international control, there are proposals to set up an international commission to observe the implementation of the provisions agreed upon. There are also proposals to introduce a peace-keeping force to replace the Vietnamese volunteer forces which withdraw from Kampuchea, to keep law and order and to supervise the agreed provisions. We hold that at present the concerned parties have similar positions on the basis for a settlement and it is time to sit down and settle the questions in details.

Q : What were they interested in next to the Kampuchean problem ?

A : They were interested in relations between Vietnam and China. They were bewildered why Vietnam and China for a long time considered each other as kith and kin and now as enemies. I told them that this is not a special phenomenon between Vietnam and China. During the last 36 years, China has time and again changed friends and foes internationally as well as internally. On the possibility of normalization of relations between the two countries, I told them that at the moment all the doors between the two countries are wide opened : the door to peace as well as the door to war. Vietnam is making great effort to restore the friendship between the two peoples, at the same time we are prepared to cope with the worst eventuality. Friendly relations between Vietnam and China benefit not only the peoples of two countries but also peace in South East Asia.

Q : What is the question raised after the problem between Vietnam and China ?

A : They raised the question of relations between Vietnam and the United States as well as that of the West. They wanted to know whether Vietnam would like to normalize relations with the U.S. and West in order to obtain aid as well as to solve economic difficulties. I explained to them that normalization of relations is beneficial to both sides and to peace and stability in South East Asia. After thirty years of ravages of wars, Vietnam needs foreign aid to rebuild the country. This is normal. But Vietnam will receive aid only without political string attached. Throughout the world, there are many countries, from Asia, Africa and Latin America, receiving aids from the U.S. and the West, but they have no less difficulties than Vietnam.

Q : Did they raise the question of U.S. conditions for normalization of relations with Vietnam ?

A : I have made it clearly that the U.S. wanted Vietnam to solve the question of MIAs (Missing-in-Action) on a humanitarian basis, but at the same time, the U.S. wanted to solve this problem as a political question paving the way for normalization of relations between the two countries. This is a self-contradictory argument. If the U.S. considers the MIAs question as a political question, how can Vietnam consider it as a humanitarian question ? I have clearly stated that Vietnam has the right to impose preconditions for normalization of relations with the U.S. because the U.S. had waged a destruction war against Vietnam with the total amount of bomb three times of that dropped during the Second World War. Furthermore, the U.S. had committed to participate in the reconstruction to heal the wounds of war in Vietnam. In 1977, the U.S. discussed the question of normalization of relations with Vietnam without precondition. At that time, Vietnam demanded that the U.S. must fulfill its commitment to participate in healing the wounds of war as a condition for normalization of relations between the two countries. In August 1978, Vietnam agreed to put the question of reparations for later discussion. But at this time, the U.S. was also discussing the question of normalization of relations with China and because of the China card, in December 1978, the U.S. and China normalized their relations. Since then, the U.S. put preconditions for normalization of relations with Vietnam. In November 1978, the Americans considered the refugee exodus and the concentration of Vietnamese troops along the Vietnamese-Kampuchean border as obstacles to normalization of relations between the two countries. Since 1981 the U.S. has changed its conditions citing the problems of the MIAs and the presence of the Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea. The conditions put forth by the U.S. are merely used as a pretext to cover up its attempt "to play the Chinese card".

Q : Have they referred to the problem of human rights ?

A : I retold them a story between an American and me which happened in 1972 during the Paris talks. The American said to me that we were communists and embraced materialism and they were capitalists preaching idealism. However, the ironical thing was that we believed in possible victory of spiritual might over weapons and they believed in possible victory of the might of weapons over spirits. I answered him that he was wrong because we held that the might of human beings could defeat weapons and they held that the might of weapons could defeat human beings. Human beings are conscious and weapons are not. Human beings produce weapons and can destroy weapons. The Americans used weapons and dollar with the hope of subjugating the Vietnamese and they were defeated. Only relying on the noble virtues of human beings did the Vietnamese manage to overcome the Americans' formidable war machine and dollar. The American brutal war has shown who respect for human rights and who violate them. After the American war in Vietnam, there has been no bloodbath in Vietnam. 2.5 millions of people who associated with the American army have been freed and none of them has been executed. There are only 7 thousands of war criminals in re-education camps, who have committed crimes against the Vietnamese people. In Europe, after the Second World War, hundreds of thousands of Hitler's associates were executed. In France only, there were 140,000. The Second World War ended 40 years ago but Hitler's associates have been hunted still throughout the world and some of them have been imprisoned since then. It is clear that the aggressors of Vietnam have always condemned the Vietnamese as aggressors and those who have repressed the Vietnamese people have always condemned the latter for violating human rights.

Q : What were they concerned about most ?

A : About the relations between Vietnam and the Soviet Union. They held that Vietnam relies entirely on the Soviet aid so it is completely dependent on the Soviet Union. I have told them that during the past 40 years many Western countries have obviously wanted Vietnam not to be independent but dependent on the West. Another plain thing is that from an enslaved nation the Vietnamese people have risen up to fight with their bare hands for independence and to defend their motherland during the past 40 years. Vietnam is the only country in the world which has known the longest period of slavery, has suffered the most from foreign invasions and has paid the most their blood for independence than any other country. No one in this world has any doubt about Vietnam's independence. During the Vietnamese people's struggle over the past 40 years, the Soviet Union is the country which has supported and assisted Vietnam the most. Without the support and assistance from the Soviet Union, Vietnam could not have regained and defended national independence. The Soviet Union has been helping Vietnam and always respects Vietnam's national independence, she is the most reliable friend of Vietnam. While strengthening the relations with the Soviet Union, Vietnam is also willing to extend relations with other countries on the basis of mutual respect and benefits. The present situation of the relations between many Western countries and Vietnam is due to their policy of "playing the Chinese card" against Vietnam.

Q : Did they ask about Vietnam's attitude towards the normalization of the Sino-Soviet relations ?

A : I told them that Vietnam welcomes the normalization of the Sino-Soviet relations. This contributes to the relaxation of tension in the world and in South East Asia particularly. Those who intend to exploit China to oppose the Soviet Union and Vietnam certainly do not like an iota of normalization of relations between China and the Soviet Union.

Q : Which was the last problem they were interested in ?

A : They asked about Vietnam's achievements recorded during the past 10 years. I told them that if compared these achievements with Vietnam's needs and desire they do not meet the Vietnamese people's aspirations. If compared with the enemy's design to bleed Vietnam white and collapse because of serious wounds resulted from the 30-year war, because of the multi-faceted war of sabotage, because of economic blockade and military pressures on the three Indochinese countries, the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people over the past 10 years are miraculous. They constituted serious setbacks for the enemies. While it took European countries 5 years to rehabilitate their economies after the 5-year long World War II, Vietnam has just had 10 years to restore its economy in the conditions without peace and after the 30-year wars with the amount of bombs and ammunition three times more than that in the World War II. In this sense, 10 years are a short period of time. If you compare these achievements with those recorded by other Asian, African and Latin American countries, you can see that in spite of enjoying 40 peaceful years these countries still have no less economic difficulties than Vietnam which has suffered 40 years of successive wars. It is also obvious that a number of Asian, African and Latin American countries have their economies more developed than Vietnam but their situation is not stable and secured. Though Vietnam is poor, its situation is stable because in Vietnam man's exploitation by man and social injustice have already been eliminated and there are no class contradictions.

One of the most significant achievements during the past 10 years was the overthrow of the Pol Pot clique by the Vietnamese and Kampuchean people, saving the Kampuchean people from the danger of total genocide, removing a source which endangered peace and stability in South East Asia.

Q : Will you please speak about the significance of the fact that we allowed many American journalists to visit Vietnam ?

A : There were not only American journalists but also journalists from many other countries visited Vietnam on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of our victory. The fact that a great number of American journalists applied for visiting Vietnam on this occasion proved that American public opinions are very concerned about the past war and very sensitive to the U.S.-Administration's present policies towards Nicaragua and Vietnam. Such concerns of the American public opinions are legitimate, because this is the occasion for the American people to review and reassess the war carried out by the U.S. Administrations for more than 20 years.

It is clear that 10 years after the end of the war, the United States has not come out of the Vietnam-syndrome and the U.S. Administration has not drawn out a proper lesson from that tragic war.

The fear of a "second Vietnam" is still haunted many Americans.

On this occasion, the American press opinions in general are objective towards Vietnam. They have seen clearly the reality in Vietnam, which is far from distorted information. They have realized that the war in Vietnam had left profound consequences on all aspects of the U.S. society. They demand a deep analysis and serious assessment of the war and draw necessary lessons to prevent future U.S. Administrations to carry out a "Second Vietnam". On the other hand, the U.S. public opinion has witnessed the correct and goodwill attitude on our part.

II- 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT VICTORY OVER FASCISM

- Message of Congratulations to the Soviet Union,

The Vietnamese Party and State leaders on May 8, 1985 jointly sent a message of congratulations to the Soviet counterparts on the 40th Anniversary of the Great Victory over the Hitlerite fascism. The message read :

"With the victories over the Hitlerite fascism and Japanese militarism, the Soviet people and armed forces have written the most glorious pages in the history of mankind and saved the human civilization from the danger of extinction. The world people admire and remain deeply grateful to such a great contribution made by the Soviet Union.

The victory over fascism to which the Soviet Union contributed a decisive part, made profound changes in all fields the world over. Socialism has become a world system, a decisive factor determining the evolution of mankind, safeguarding peace and maintaining international security. The oppressed and exploited peoples, one after another have stood up to overthrow the yoke of colonialism and neo-colonialism, gaining independence and freedom, and advancing on the road to socialism. The worker's movements in the capitalist countries have developed day by day.

The victory of the Soviet people in the great struggle for the defence of their country created favourable conditions for the Vietnamese people in their struggle for independence. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam founded, organized and trained by the late President Ho Chi Minh, the Vietnamese people carried out successfully the August Revolution, drove out the Japanese militarists and put an end to the 80-year yoke of the French colonialists, setting up the first worker-peasant state in South East Asia".

The statement reaffirmed : "the entire Vietnamese people is consistently in support of the Soviet Union's untiring efforts in safeguarding peace, disarmament and preventing a nuclear war, especially the latest peace initiatives put forth by M. Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU".

- Grand Meeting Held in Hanoi to Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Victory over Fascism,

In the afternoon of 9th May 1985, a grand and solemn meeting to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Victory over fascism (9 May 1945 - 9 May 1985) was organized in Ba Dinh Hall, Hanoi, by the Central Committee of Vietnam Fatherland Front, the Defence Ministry and Hanoi People's Committee.

The meeting was opened by Chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee Tran Vi.

In his speech, Deputy Defence Minister General Hoang Van Thai pointed out the great historic significance of the glorious jubilee. He said that the Victory over fascism was one of the most historic events of the 20th century after the success of the October Revolution and people all over the world were deeply grateful to all anti-fascist fighters whose main forces were the Soviet people and their heroic armed forces. The General stressed that the great exploits and enormous sacrifices and losses of the Soviet people were eloquent proofs against any distortion of history fabricated with the aim to downgrade the Soviet Union's role as the main and decisive fighting force in defeating Nazism and Japanese militarism on both the European and Asian battlefields.

The General made it clear that from the earliest days of the struggle against fascism and militarism the Vietnamese people had joined the World Democratic Front and sided with the Alliance against fascism, war and colonial reactionaries and their henchmen, for freedom, democracy and peace. The Vietnamese people's August Revolution, their two glorious resistance wars which had defeated the ring-leaders of imperialism and the war for national salvation against the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists were all the continuation of the Soviet Union's hard fighting and historic victory, he said.

In other developments, at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the USSR, a delegation of the Vietnamese Party and State led by Chu Huy Man, member of the C.P.V. Politburo and Vice-President of the S.R.V. State Council attended the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Great Victory over fascism held in Moscow on 8 May 1985. Also present at the celebration were a delegation from the People's Democratic Republic of Laos led by Suphnavong, member of the Politburo of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and President of People's Democratic Republic of Laos, and a delegation from the People's Republic of Kampuchea led by Bu Thoong, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea and Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the P.R.K.

- A Formidable Front against the Belligerent Militarist Forces,

The struggle and victory over the Hitlerite fascism and the Japanese militarism remain forever one of the most glorious epics of human history. They make clear that those who go against the course of history, with whatever machiavellism and brutality, are always pulverized under the wheel of history.

One can draw from the victory over Hitlerite fascism and Japanese militarism innumerable experiences and precious lessons touching all fields : political, military and diplomatic.

Mankind will always be grateful to anti-fascist fighters in every corner of the world who sacrificed their lives for the noble cause, holding high the banner of heroism, struggling resolutely with determination to defeat the fascist and the militarists.

Mankind will always be grateful to the Soviet people and Army, who, under the leadership of the glorious Communist Party of the Soviet Union, suffered the greatest sacrifices and contributed the greatest and most decisive part to the victory over fascism and militarism. One should imagine the catastrophe mankind would have suffered if there were not a Soviet Union who stood as a solid wall against the fascist deluge, who annihilated 10 out of 13 million fascist troops destroyed in all fronts, who pursued the Hitlerites to their last haunt, who smashed more than one million 1st class Japanese troops stationed in Manchuria.

In the present international context, if there were not a Soviet Union, which constitutes a powerful bastion for peace and revolution, the belligerent forces of imperialism would have for long plunged mankind into a new world war already.

The lesson drawn from the foundation, consolidation and reinforcement of the anti-fascist front is of great significance for the present context.

The military and belligerent forces of imperialism are intensifying the armed race, accelerating the production of weapons with massive destruction, preparing a nuclear war and a new world war. In comparison with the Hitlerite fascists and the Japanese militarists in the Second World War, the belligerent American imperialists and their clique have at hand the weapons hundred and thousand times more powerful, which can kill hundreds of millions of people without any distinction between soldiers and civilians, in their first strike. On the other hand, their attacks would be punished by the other side immediately. Many scientists and politicians foresee that if a nuclear war breaks out, in the first minutes, two thirds of the cities in the U.S. would be wiped out.

By their criminal and genocidal manoeuvres, the belligerent forces of the U.S. imperialists the Western European imperialists and the Japanese imperialists are not only the enemies of the socialist countries, the international communist and workers' movement, but are also the enemies of the national liberation movement, the non-aligned movement, every peace-loving nation, workers, peasants, middle and petty bourgeoisie in the capitalist countries, of all peace-loving people. Some among the ruling circles in the U.S. in the Western European countries and Japan who have little relations with the military-industrial complexes and who have a peaceful tendency are also in contradiction to the belligerent forces.

The above situation points out that the foundation of a large front of the world people against the belligerent and imperialist forces is a real possibility. In fact, this front is being formed (at different levels) in many countries, regions and in a world scale.

As a result of the extremely reactionary, brutal and chauvinist policy undertaken by the belligerent forces of imperialism, headed by the U.S. imperialists, that run counter the interests of not only the working people but other social classes in many countries, there exist greater possibilities to enlarge the world popular front against the danger of a nuclear war and a new world war.

III- 95TH BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION OF LATE PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

A solemn meeting was held at the Ba Dinh Hall in Hanoi on 18 May 1985 in honour of the 95th Birthday Anniversary of the late President Ho Chi Minh, the outstanding leader of the Vietnamese working class and people, a great architect of the Vietnamese Revolution and an eminent activist of the international communist and workers' movement, a close friend of the oppressed and working peoples around the world.

The presidium of the meeting includes Le Duan, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; Truong Chinh, Political Bureau Member of the Party Central Committee and President of the State Council; Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman of the National Assembly and other high-ranking officials and heroes, heroines of the Vietnam People's Armed Forces. Representatives of mass organizations in Hanoi, members of the Diplomatic Corps and foreign guests also attended the meeting.

President Truong Chinh delivered the commemorative speech : "...On this historic day, looking back at the road chartered by the late President Ho Chi Minh, and what he decreed to our nation, we feel much confident and proud in carrying out his instructions and bringing his invincible banner to the final victory". "The way chosen by Ho Chi Minh", President Truong Chinh said, "is the way of Marxism-Leninism, and the Great October Revolution. This is the only correct way to liberate his own nation". President Truong Chinh also pointed to the great contributions of the late President Ho Chi Minh in creatively applying and enriching Lenin's theory of Revolution in the colonies. President Truong Chinh continued : "The greatest contribution of the late President Ho Chi Minh

is the introduction of Marxism-Leninism into Vietnam and the forming of the Indochinese Communist Party, as fundamental turning-point in Vietnam's history, or in the history of the three Indochinese countries. President Ho Chi Minh was the founder of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the first worker and peasant state in South East Asia. President Ho Chi Minh's cause is very great and his contributions are also great. His own life, full of activities, his ideology, revolution's theory, his morals and virtues, all have become an asset treasured and respected by the entire Vietnamese people". President Truong Chinh continued : "Following the path blazed by President Ho Chi Minh, our entire Party, people and Army are striving to carry out two strategic tasks set by the 5th Party Congress - to successfully build socialism and firmly defend the Vietnamese socialist homeland". President Truong Chinh said : "during the past 10 years, bringing into full play the people's collective mastery the Vietnamese people have restored and developed the labour force and established the socialist relation of production in the South Vietnam, consolidated that of the North, and gradually stabilized and improved the people's material and spiritual life, firmly maintaining the political security and social order, strengthening and consolidating national defence, firmly safe-guarding the Northern border of our country, and fulfilling the international obligations towards the brotherly Lao and Kampuchean peoples. The Vietnamese people have overcome many difficulties and trials, steadily advancing forward". On the present international situation, President Truong Chinh condemned the U.S. imperialist and war-like circles for feverishly stepping up the nuclear arms race and the militarization of outer-space. He said " They are bent on breaking the equilibrium of balance of forces and gaining military and nuclear superiority. They are putting mankind before the real danger of a nuclear war of extermination with unpredictable consequences". President Truong Chinh welcomed the Warsaw Treaty member countries' recent decision to renew the Treaty for another 20 years. He strongly supported the Soviet Union's principled stand and well-known peace initiatives and the recent important proposals of Mr. Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, for a simultaneous halt in the production and development of nuclear and space weapons. President Truong Chinh stressed : "The imperialist and other reactionary forces, however bellicose, cannot check the strong developments of the three revolutionary currents in the world. The world socialist system with the Soviet Union as its mainstay, together with other revolutionary and peace-loving forces, continue to grow stronger. The possibility of defending and preserving world peace is a reality".

Concluding his speech, the Vietnamese leader said : "President Ho Chi Minh had opened a new era in Vietnam's history, an era of national independence and socialism. That is the glorious Ho Chi Minh era. The Vietnamese people, now united around the Communist Party of Vietnam headed by General Secretary Le Duan, will certainly gain greater victories in the socialist construction and national defence, thus making Vietnam more beautiful and prosperous as uncle Ho wishes".

The meeting ended with the rhythm of the song " As if Uncle Ho is with us on the day of Victory".

IV- THAI HOSTILITIES AGAINST THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLE CONDEMNED

- New Thai Provocations Against Laos Condemned,

Hanoi, VNA , April 29 - A Spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry today issued a statement , strongly condemning Thailand's hostile activities against the Lao People's Democratic Republic; The statement reads :

"Since the beginning of April the Thai ultra-rightist reactionaries have heavily pounded with artillery on, and infiltrated their troops into May Cang and Savang hamlets of Parlay district, Sayaboury province, Laos. Serious still, on April, 1985 Thai troops

shelled many artillery rounds on, and frenziedly attacked with infantry units the three hamlets and their vicinities, causing several dead or wounded and heavy damage to the local people's property, thus causing tension in the region.

These are new flagrant acts of aggression of the ultra-rightist reactionaries within the Thai ruling circles, which have grossly violated the Lao sovereignty and territorial integrity. Together with their lending a hand to the Pol Pot remnants and other Khmer reactionaries to conduct activities of sabotage against the People's Republic of Kampuchea, these new war escalations clearly proved that the Ultra-rightist reactionaries within the Thai ruling circles are continuing to work hand in glove with the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists to oppose the three Indochinese countries, create tension, undermine peace and stability in Southeast Asia and check the growing trend towards dialogue in this region.

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam severely condemns all the above-mentioned hostile activities of the Thai ruling circles against the Lao People's Democratic Republic, fully supports the L.P.D.R's correct stance as mentioned in the Lao Foreign Ministry's statement on April 25, 1985, and resolutely demands that the Thai ruling circles put an immediate end to their acts of aggression, attacks and land-grabbing against Laos, and withdraw all Thai troops from Laos, thus normalizing the situation in the three hamlets as it was before June 6, 1984".

- Foreign Ministry Rejects Thai Slander,

Hanoi, VNA, May 10 - A spokesman of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry issued a statement here today rejecting the Thai authorities' slander that Vietnamese troops had made incursions into Thailand's territory. The statement reaffirms Vietnam's unswerving policy of respecting Thailand's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The full text of the statement reads :

"Of late, the Thai authorities again cooked up the story of Vietnamese troops intruding into Thailand's territory. They even said that Vietnam 'plans to annex 17 provinces in Northeast Thailand'. This is but a customary slander by the Thai ruling circles aimed at misleading public opinion which is strongly demanding that Thailand put an end to its collusion with China in using the Pol Potists and other Khmer reactionaries to oppose the revival of the Kampuchean people, and adopts a policy of friendship and peaceful co-existence towards the Indochinese countries.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam categorically rejects all slanderous allegations of Thailand and reaffirms its unswerving policy of strictly respecting Thailand's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and its wish to build a friendly and good-neighbourly relationship with Thailand in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and of peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam holds that there are now favourable conditions for the parties concerned to agree on the establishment of a safety zone along the Kampuchean-Thai border under international control and supervision so as to guarantee peace and stability in the Kampuchean-Thai border area, as has been proposed by the Indochinese countries".

- New Thai Provocations Against Kampuchea Condemned,

A Spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry issued the following statement on May 17, 1985 :

"According to the Kampuchean News Agency S.P.K. on May 17, and repeatedly from May 1 to 11, Thailand's L.19, F5A, A.37 planes intruded into Kampuchean airspace to reconnoitre and wantonly bombard the areas of Ampil, Chomchom, Koh Kong, Pursat, Dang Kor and Pailin, lying from one kilometre to seven kilometres inside Kampuchean territory. Thai troops opened fire at Kampuchea's provinces of Pursat, Siem Reap and Battambang. Particularly serious was the incident of May 8, in which Thai aircraft bombarded, and Thai gunners fired more than 800 artillery and mortar shells at the Northern and Southern ends of road 56 in Pursat province, lying from four to seven kilometres inside Kampuchean territory. Then 200 Thai troops intruded into that area killing and wounding many Kampuchean civilians while in the sea, many Thai vessels sailed into Kampuchean territorial waters in areas near the Koh Kong and Koh Tang islands.

This is an extremely serious violation of Kampuchea's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is obvious that the Thai authorities are realizing Thai Prime Minister Prem Tisulanonda's statement of March 22, 1985 concerning the possibility of Thai forces fighting with the Vietnamese forces inside Kampuchean territory, and Thai Deputy Army Commander Thienchai Sirisamphan's blazen declaration that the Thai army would attack the Vietnamese forces inside Kampuchea.

In order to cover up their violations of Kampuchean territory, the Thai authorities have repeatedly and slanderously charged Vietnamese troops with intruding into Thai territory and annexing Thailand's 17 Northeastern provinces. It is similar to their attempt to conceal their incursion upon the three Lao hamlets in June 1984, in which the Thai authorities fabricated the so-called Lao army's attack on Thai territory.

Realities over the past -six years have shown that the presence of the Vietnamese army volunteers in Kampuchea does not in the least threaten Thailand's security. On the contrary, it is Thailand that has tried all ways and means to make the situation along the Thai-Kampuchean border constantly tense and even explosive so as to lend a hand to the Pol Potists in opposing the Kampuchean people's revival and smearing Vietnam. At the same time, the Thai authorities have persisted in rejecting the proposal for establishing a zone of peace along the Kampuchean-Thai border under international control.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam firmly demands that the Thai authorities immediately end their violations of the territory of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and that the Thai side bear full responsibility for all the consequences of their act.

V- FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION.

- Vietnamese Government's Statement on Summit Meeting of Warsaw Treaty Member Countries,

Hanoi, VNA, May 6 - The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam today issues the following statement on the Summit Meeting of the Member countries of the Warsaw Treaty :

"The Summit Meeting of Party and State leaders of the member countries of the Warsaw Treaty on April 26, 1985 decided to renew the Warsaw Treaty for 20 more years and to step up the struggle for peace and disarmament to prevent and push back the danger of a nuclear war and maintain durable peace in Europe and the rest of the world.

This is a decision of historic importance which demonstrates the socialist countries' will of peace, unswerving stance and high sense of responsibility for peace and security of their own and of other nations.

Thirty years ago, in the face of the establishment of NATO by imperialist countries headed by the United States and their policy of stepped up intervention and war provocations, the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, a defensive military - political alliance of the socialist countries in Europe was founded and has actively served the development and consolidation of all-round cooperation among its member countries. It has constituted a firm guarantee for the member countries' sovereignty, security and border lines for Europe to have enjoyed, the longest peaceful time since the end of world war, thus contributing to the defence of world peace.

Today, facing with new challenges posed by the United States' adventurous policy of striving to consolidate the NATO, step up the nuclear arms race, including that in the outer space which seriously threatens peace in Europe and the rest of the world, the Warsaw Treaty member countries' decision to renew the Treaty is completely correct and necessary.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Vietnamese people warmly welcome and fully support that decision, fully support the persistent stance of peace of the member countries of the Warsaw Treaty, particularly the well-known peace initiatives put forth by Comrade M. X. Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee.

The Vietnamese people firmly believe that the member countries of the Warsaw Treaty, heightening their vigilance, strengthening their solidarity with all forces of peace, national independence, democracy and socialism, will be fully able to prevent, push back and defeat all schemes of war provocations of the imperialist and international reactionary forces, and firmly defend the socialist countries' creative labour and security, thus making the most active contribution to the maintenance of peace and security in Europe and the rest of the world.

- Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Bandung Conference

A grand meeting in Hanoi was held on April 24, 1985 to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Bandung Conference. The presidium of the meeting included Dong Si Nguyen, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, many Vietnamese Party and State leaders and diplomatic representatives in Hanoi.

Addressing the meeting, Prof. Hoang Minh Giam, President of the Committee for solidarity and Friendship with other peoples said : "The Bandung Conference was a firm response of the Asian and African countries to imperialism, and a great demonstration of the will of these nations which have stood up to master their destiny. The Bandung spirit is, first of all, the indomitable spirit of Asian and African nations, of thousands of millions who had been awoken and determined to unite and struggle to defend their independence, freedom and national identity against all schemes of imperialism and colonialism. The Bandung spirit is, at the same time, a spirit of friendship and equality among nations embodied in the well-known 10 Bandung principles which laid down a basis for the relations of peaceful co-existence between the countries with different social system. The Bandung spirit is also a vigorous voice of nations demanding disarmament and a ban on the production and use of nuclear weapons, condemning the imperialist countries' policies of forming aggressive military blocs and demanding the abolition of all military bases on the soil of independent countries".

He stressed : "Vietnam has made active contributions to the success of the Bandung Conference, and by the struggle against imperialism over the past 30 years, Vietnam has actively contributed to the defence of the Bandung principles, consolidation and strengthening of the solidarity in the movement".

On the friendly relations between Vietnam and Indonesia, Prof. Hoang Minh Giam said : "In the past 40 years in all circumstances, Vietnam and Indonesia have always remained friends, even in the most difficult moment. In the spirit of Dien Bien Phu and Bandung, Vietnam and Indonesia have been and are making great contributions to the just struggle against imperialism, colonialism - old and new, expansionism and hegemonism for peace in Asia and the rest of the world".

- Vietnamese Parliamentary Delegation's Visit to the Soviet Union,

A Vietnamese Parliamentary delegation headed by Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman of the Vietnamese National Assembly paid an official visit to the Soviet Union from 22 to 28 April 1985.

The Vietnamese delegation held talks with the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by its Chairman L. N. Tolkunov, and Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities A.E. Voss. The two sides informed each other of their national construction and plans of the two most powerful state bodies. They exchanged views on international issues of mutual concern. The two sides noted with satisfaction the unceasingly development of Vietnamese-Soviet relationship and expressed their desire to expand close ties between the S.R.V National Assembly and the U.S.S.R Supreme Soviet. They both stressed the determination to strengthen the struggle for peace, to check the nuclear arms race and to prevent the danger of a nuclear war. They strongly condemned the imperialists and expansionists for creating confrontation and instability in Southeast Asia.

The Vietnamese National Assembly's official visit to the Soviet Union constitutes a new and important step to consolidate and further develop the fraternal friendship and all-round cooperation between the Vietnamese and Soviet peoples. On this occasion, the Vietnamese side expressed thanks to the U.S.S.R Supreme Soviet for the warm and cordial reception.

- Cuban Foreign Minister Visits Vietnam,

At the invitation of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, comrade Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Cuba, Chairman of the Cuban Subcommittee at the 8th Session of the Vietnamese-Cuban inter-governmental Committee on Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation together with his wife paid an official and friendly visit to Vietnam from 27 April to 2 May 1985.

Comrade Nguyen Co Thach, Alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Comrade Vu Dinh Lieu, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Chairman of the Vietnamese sub-committee of the Vietnamese-Cuban inter-governmental Committee on Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation held talks with and offered an official reception in honour of Comrade Isidoro Malmierca, his wife and other comrades of the delegation.

During his stay in Vietnam, the Cuban Foreign Minister laid a wreath and paid tribute at Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, visited the residence and office of the late President Ho Chi Minh.

Comrade Truong Chinh, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, President of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Comrade Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the C.P.V., Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the S.R.V. held cordial talks with comrade Isidoro Malmierca.

Comrade Isidoro Malmierca attended the 8th Session of the Vietnamese-Cuban inter-governmental Committee on Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation, which was held in Hanoi. At this session, Minister Isidoro Malmierca, for the Cuban government and Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vu Dinh Lieu, for the Vietnamese government signed the minutes of the session. The two sides highly appreciated the good results in carrying out the tasks laid down by the 7th Session of the Committee in December 1983 and put forward necessary directions and measures aimed at further strengthening and expanding economic, scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries. Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach held very cordial talks and exchanged their views on national construction and defence of each country, on international and regional situation, on the non-aligned movement and on the further development of the fraternal, friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries. The two sides had identical views on the issues discussed.

On this occasion, Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach signed the Cooperation Plan for the period of 1986-1990 between the two Foreign Ministries of the two countries.

From 29 April to 2 May, Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and his wife visited Ho Chi Minh City and attended the 10th Anniversary of the Vietnamese people's total victory of the anti-U.S. Resistance War for National Salvation. The delegation was warmly received.

On 2 May, Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and his wife left Ho Chi Minh City, successfully concluded his official and friendly visit to Vietnam.

- Vietnam in Support of Nicaragua,

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of S.R.V. on May 7, 1985 issued a statement condemning the U.S. embargo against Nicaragua. The statement reads:

"This U.S. act is another escalation in preparation for further actions against the Republic of Nicaragua. By these arrogant acts, the U.S. imperialists exposed themselves of the bellicose and aggressive nature and their policy of using force in international relations. These acts grossly violated the principles of international law.

The Foreign Ministry of S.R.V. strongly condemns the extremely dangerous acts of the U.S. imperialists against the Republic of Nicaragua, demands that the U.S. Administration put an end to the hostile policy and seriously respond to the goodwill of the Nicaraguan government in order to solve the problems through peaceful negotiation and on the basis of equality".

The statement reaffirmed the militant solidarity and resolute support of the Vietnamese government and people to the just cause of the heroic Nicaraguan people.

Recently, the Vietnamese people have given 3,000 tonnes of sugar as a gift to the Nicaraguan people.

- Foreign Ministry Rejects U.S. Absurd Demand,

Hanoi, VNA, April 29 - The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry's spokesman today released the following statement :

"Recently, some U.S. officials distorted Vietnam's policy toward the criminals now held in re-education camps. The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry's spokesman is authorized to state the following :

During the war in South Vietnam, more than 2.5 million persons collaborated with the U.S. army in its aggression against Vietnam. Thanks to the policy of humanitarianism, leniency and national reconciliation pursued by the people and government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the majority of these puppets have enjoyed freedom and there has been no bloodbath as was claimed by the United States. In Vietnam, there has been no execution of hundreds of thousands of persons as was the case of the collaborators with the Hitlerite fascists in Europe. As a matter of fact, until today, forty years after the annihilation of fascism, the collaborators with Hitler are still being hunted down across the world and many remain behind bars. Vietnam respects that right of the European countries. So far, some 7,000 persons remain in re-education camps in Vietnam. They are a small proportion of those who collaborated with the foreign aggressors and committed mass murders such as the "Phoenix" operations, and other crimes against the country, but have refused to mend their past. During its contacts with Vietnam, the United States regarded them as political prisoners and asked for the unconditional release of these criminals. That is a completely absurd demand which has been rejected by Vietnam. Vietnam has the right to punish those criminals as the European countries have done to the collaborators with the aggressors.

That is the right of all nations to defend their national rights.

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has rejected all distortions of the U.S. side on this issue.
