

EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
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I- ALL-ROUND COOPERATION BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE U.S.S.R.

- VIETNAMESE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATION'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION :

At the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet, and the USSR Council of Ministers, a Party and Government delegation of the SPV led by Le Duan, General Secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee paid an official and friendly visit to the Soviet Union from June 27th to July 1st, 1985.

The Vietnamese Party and Government delegation was cordially received by Comrade M. Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Talks were held in the Kremlin on June 28th, 1985 between the two party and government delegations in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality, of complete unity and mutual understanding typical of the fraternal relations between the two communist parties and between Vietnam and the Soviet Union.

The delegations exchanged information about the progress of socialist and communist construction in their respective countries and on preparations for the 6th Congress of the CPV and the 27th Congress of the CPSU.

The sides expressed profound satisfaction with the high level of development of all-round Vietnamese-Soviet relations, on the solid foundation of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union.

A Joint Vietnamese-Soviet declaration was signed on June 29, 1985 by Le Duan and M. Gorbachyov.

The declaration says that, guided by the Leninist principles of socialist internationalism, considering Vietnam's urgent needs and with the aim of accelerating the development of the key branches of industry and agriculture, strengthening the country's defence and ensuring a rise in the living standards of the population, the USSR has decided to increase economic assistance to the SRV, grant it on easy terms a new credit for the 1986-1990 and also reschedule the repayment of the credits granted earlier. Supplies to Vietnam of such important products for the national economy as oil products, fertilisers, rolled metal and cotton will be increased.

In the course of an exchange of views on topical issues of the international situation and of the world communist, working class and national liberation movement, the sides pointed out the high level of cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the field of foreign policy, and declared for a further close co-ordination of the efforts of the two countries in the interests of peace and socialism.

The Soviet and Vietnamese delegations expressed a unanimous evaluation of the present day complicated international situation. They pointed to the danger of the policy pursued by the reactionary circles of imperialism with the USA at their head, which had set out to break the military strategic balance that had taken shape in the world.

This policy also attempted to spread the arms race to outer space, to dictate US will to sovereign states and to crudely interfere in their internal affairs.

No task is more important and urgent now than to prevent the world from slipping down to nuclear catastrophe, and to preserve peace on Earth.

Both sides stressed that, in the present-day international situation, special significance was attached to the unity and cohesion of the socialist community and broadening cooperation between all forces which sincerely strive for preserving and strengthening peace.

The Vietnamese side expressed full support for the USSR's principled stand at the Soviet-American talks in Geneva. They expressed the conviction that the accession of the USA to the moratorium - announced by the USSR for the whole period of the Geneva talks - on the creation, research work, testing and deployment of strike space weapons would be of great significance for its success.

The historic significance of the 40th anniversary of victory over Hitler fascism and Japanese militarism was pointed out. All progressive forces of the world are marking it by stepping up the struggle to put an end to the arms race, prevent the threat of war and improve the international situation.

A detailed exchange of views was held on issues pertaining to the situation in Asia and the Pacific basin. The sides strongly condemned the aggressive policy of the USA in various parts of that area, including Washington's plans to turn the region into another arena of military and political confrontation against the socialist countries. They pointed out the danger of a build up of military preparations by the USA and its allies in the Middle East, their efforts to remilitarise Japan and to speed up the creation of a Washington-Tokyo-Seoul militaristic alliance.

Both sides reaffirmed their adherence to the idea of turning Asia into a zone of peace and equitable co-operation, and declared for intensifying the quest for constructive and mutually acceptable ways to resolve the problems of ensuring peace and security on that continent.

The sides are convinced that these aims can be achieved by the joint efforts of all Asian states on the basis of a comprehensive approach, through bilateral and multilateral talks and exchanges of views.

These aims would be effectively promoted by the implementation of the known proposals of the socialist states. These include the implementation of confidence-building measures in the Far East, a convention on mutual non-aggression and non-use of force in relations between the states of Asia and the Pacific, turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace, and convening an international conference on that issue not later than in the first half of 1986 - as was decided at the 39th session of the UN General Assembly.

The sides agreed that holding a general Asian forum at some time in the future to examine the whole package of issues concerning ensuring security on that continent, would be of great significance.

In discussing questions relating to the situation in South-East Asia, the delegations stressed that underlying the tensions remaining in the region was the hostile policy of imperialism and hegemonism towards Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, and incessant interference from outside in the affairs of the countries of that region.

The USSR resolutely supports the struggle of the states of Indochina aimed at foiling the intrigues of these forces, in defence of their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Soviet side also expressed full support for the constructive policy and practical steps of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea for creating a healthier atmosphere of good-neighbourliness, trust and cooperation in South East Asia. The USSR welcomes the efforts of all countries of South East Asia in that direction.

The USSR and the SRV declared support for the efforts and initiatives of the PDRK aimed at strengthening peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and at peaceful reunification of the country.

In the opinion of the sides, a normalisation in the relations of the Soviet Union and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with the People's Republic of China would accord with the aims of strengthening peace in Asia.

The sides pointed out that the direct consequence of the policy of interference in the affairs of the newly free countries pursued by the militaristic circles of imperialism, above all of the USA, was the preservation of dangerous seats of tension in the Middle and Near East, in Asia, Africa and Central America. The sides resolutely declared for the elimination of these seats of tension and a peaceful settlement of conflict. They said that these aims would be best served by each permanent member of the UN Security Council adopting the commitment to strictly observe the principles of non-interference, non-use of force or threat of force in relations with states on all continents, and not to draw them into military blocs.

The Soviet Union and Vietnam pointed out the growing role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the struggle for peace, against the arms race, and for a restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis.

The sides highly evaluated India's weighty contribution to the struggle for strengthening peace and security, for eliminating the threat of nuclear war and international detente and India's constructive role in strengthening the unity and enhancing the prestige of the Non-Aligned Movement in international affairs.

The Vietnamese side invited Mikhail Gorbachyov to go on an official friendly visit to the SRV at the head of a Soviet party and government delegation. It was accepted with gratitude.

- VIETNAM-SOVIET MINISTERIAL TALKS

On 6 June 1985, Vo Dong Giang, Minister delegate to the Foreign Ministry had talks with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister M.V. Kapitsa on international issues of mutual concern. On the same day, the Soviet Foreign Ministry held a party in honour of Minister Vo Dong Giang.

II- SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VIETNAM-LAOS-KAMPUCHEA

- VIETNAMESE PARTY AND STATE DELEGATION'S VISITS TO LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA

A Vietnamese high-level party and state delegation led by Truong Chinh, politburo member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Chairman of the State Council of SRV paid official and friendly visits to Laos from May 22nd to 27th, 1985 and Kampuchea from June 3rd to 8th, 1985.

In Laos, the Vietnamese Party and state delegation was cordially and friendly received by Kaysone Phomvihane, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. The delegation attended the solemn welcome meeting held by the people in Vientiane. The delegation visited a numerous economic and cultural establishments and historic monuments in Vientiane and Luang Prabang. The Vietnamese Party and State delegation headed by Truong Chinh and the Lao Party and State headed by Souphanouvong, members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and President of the People's Republic of Laos held talks in the atmosphere of sincerity and fraternal solidarity, and shared identical points of view. The two sides informed each other of their countries' situation, exchanged points of view in an attempt to continuously promote and consolidate the close relationship and all-round cooperation between the two countries and held discussions on the regional and international issues of mutual concern. A Joint Statement was issued on May 27th, 1985.

Following are some important excerpts :

"The two sides reaffirmed their determination to further consolidate the great relationship and militant solidarity nurtured by respected President Ho Chi Minh, to strengthen the all-round cooperation, especially in economic, cultural and technical and scientific field, to actively realize the agreements of the Summit Conference of the three Indochinese countries held in Vientiane in Feb, 1983.

The two sides warmly welcome the miraculous revival of the fraternal Kampuchean people during the past six years. The two sides strongly support the correct position of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in solving the Kampuchean issue on the basis of respect for self-determination of the Kampuchean people, first and foremost the right to live without Pol Pot.

The two sides reaffirm their consistent position of strengthening the all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

On the pressing issues of the world situation, the participants in the talks voice their concern with the tense international situation caused by the U.S. policy of gaining military superiority over the Soviet Union and socialist countries.

The two sides entirely support the constant foreign policy of the Soviet Union, particularly the peace initiatives put forward by Comrade M. Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and the May 9th, 1985 Appeal to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers sent to all nations, parliaments and governments on the 40th Anniversary of the ending of the Second World War.

The two sides reaffirm that the hostile policy of the Chinese ruling circles against the three Indochinese countries is the cause of the tension in South East Asia. The two sides express their wishes and will do their best to restore the long-traditional friendship between the Peoples of the Indochinese countries and China. The two sides hold that all problems between the Indochinese countries and China can be and must be solved through negotiations and on the basis of mutual respect for independence and sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, for peace and stability in Asia.

The participants in the talks reaffirm the position of the three Indochinese countries stated by the Conference of the three Indochinese foreign ministers in January 1985 on the political solution for South East Asian and Kampuchean issues. The two sides support the dialogue between Indochina and ASEAN on the basis of equality, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

The two sides hold that the normalization of bilateral or multilateral relations between the Indochinese countries and ASEAN countries will make an important breakthrough in solving problems in the region. The two sides hold that the Indochinese countries and ASEAN countries share identical views on a South East Asia of peace, freedom and neutrality. That is the basis for resolving all problems between Indochina and ASEAN.

The U.S. war of aggression in Indochina ended 10 years ago, but relations between the U.S and Indochinese countries have yet been normalized. The two sides hold that the normalization of relations between the Indochinese countries and the U.S will benefit for all sides concerned and for peace and stability in South East Asia".

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During its stay in Kampuchea, the Vietnamese Party and State delegation held talks with the Kampuchean Party and State delegation headed by Comrade Heng Samrin, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party, President of the Council of State of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. The two sides informed each other of the situation, in each countries, discussed the measures to develop and strengthen the special relationship and all-round cooperation between the two countries.

The talks took place in a sincere and friendly atmosphere. The two sides share unanimous view on all matters. A Joint Statement was issued on June 8, 1985.

Following are some important excerpts :

"Vietnam greatly admire and warmly welcome the miraculous revival of the fraternal Kampuchean people. Bringing into full play the tradition of indomitable spirit and creativeness, the Kampuchean people under the correct leadership of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea headed by respected Comrade Heng Samrin, General Secretary, have overcome difficulties and trials, achieved bright successes in building and consolidating the revolutionary regime, in restoring and developing economy and culture. The living standards of the people have been stabilized and gradually improved. Defence and security have been consolidated. The People's Republic of Kampuchea has firmly defended the revolutionary achievements and smashed all dark schemes of the hegemonists and expansionists who have colluded with the imperialists

and other international reactionaries, used the Pol Pot genocidal clique and other Khmer reactionaries to sabotage the rebirth of the Kampuchean people. The military successes in the 1984-1985 dry-season which liquidated numerous bases of the Khmer reactionaries along the Kampuchean-Thai border, and the comprehensive successes in economic, political and diplomatic fields, confirm the irreversibility of the Kampuchean situation. The People's Republic of Kampuchea is the sole genuine and legitimate representative of the Kampuchean people. The international prestige of the People's Republic of Kampuchea has been constantly enhanced.

The Vietnamese side highly appreciate the policy of national unity pursued by the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea which mobilizes all walks of life and political forces to overcome the consequences left behind by the Pol Pot genocidal regime, to build a prosperous Kampuchea. The SRV fully support the just stand of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in the struggle for self-determination, first and foremost is/right to revival of the Kampuchean people and the permanent abolition of the Pol Pot genocidal clique.

The two sides note with satisfaction that the all-round cooperation between the two countries in recent years has brought about fruitful results, effectively contributing to the economic and cultural reconstruction of each country.

The two sides unanimously agree that it is necessary to further strengthen and broaden that cooperation on the basis of the resolutions of the Summit Conference of the three Indochinese countries held in Vientiane in Feb. 1983.

The two sides reaffirm their consistent policy of strengthening the all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries."

On the situation in South East Asia, the Statement says :

"The two sides reaffirm that the hostile policies of the Chinese ruling circles which aim at maintaining the Pol Pot genocidal clique against the Kampuchean people, creating confrontation among the Indochinese countries and ASEAN countries run counter to the interests of the peoples in the region and that of the Chinese people. The participants in the talks hold that all problems between the Indochinese countries and China can be and should be solved through negotiations on the basis of respect for each other's sovereignty and independence, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, in the interest of peace and stability in Asia. The two sides persistently pursue the efforts of restoring the traditional friendship between the Indochinese countries and China"

"The constant stand of goodwill of the three Indochinese countries on the political solution for all problems of South East Asia and Kampuchea are clearly reaffirmed in the Statement of the January 1985 Conference of the three Indochinese Foreign Ministers. The two sides hold that it is necessary to promote dialogue between the Indochinese and ASEAN countries on the basis of equality, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of each other, non-interference in each other's internal affairs"

The two sides support the normalization and development of bilateral or multilateral relations among South East Asian countries, and hold that these relations will create favourable conditions for solving all problems in the region. The two sides hold that the development of the friendly relations between Vietnam and Indonesia and between Laos and Indonesia proves the correctness and reality of the above-mentioned concept.

"The two sides reaffirm their consistent stand of goodwill of being ready to develop the good-neighbourness relations with the Kingdom of Thailand. The SRV stresses their support for the important efforts of the PRK aimed at building the Kampuchean-Thai border into a peaceful and stable border on the basis of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in each other's internal affairs."

The two sides hold that the normalization of relations between the Indochinese countries and the US will benefit all parties concerned and peace and stability in the region.

The two sides strongly confirm the complete support of the SRV and PRK for the struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa, Latin America against imperialism, neo-colonialism, for independence, freedom and for new equitable and rational international economic order."

III- CHINA, THAILAND - SABOTEURS OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

- CHINESE ARMED PROVOCATIONS AGAINST VIETNAM

Since early May 1985, the Chinese authorities have massed divisions of troops close to the Vietnamese border province of Ha Tuyen and dozens of Chinese commando units intruded into Vietnamese territories for sabotage activities against Vietnam. From May 27 to June 13, 1985 Chinese troops fired 226,900 artillery rounds on the Vietnamese border provinces and conducted 36 incursions into many areas of Ha Tuyen province. On May 31 alone, Chinese troops fired more than 5000 artillery rounds deep into Vietnamese territories. In a counter-attack, the local armed forces and people of Ha Tuyen province have repulsed all Chinese encroachments, wiping out 1875 Chinese troops, captured many others and seized a quantity of weapons and military equipments.

- COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES SAYS : "BE VIGILANT WITH CHINA"

In his speech to parliament on May 28th, General Murdani, Commander-in-Chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces emphasized that Indonesia must be vigilant with China, in the light of the resumption of trade relations between Indonesia and China. He said that Indonesian citizens should not visit China because the two countries had not resumed diplomatic relations.

Also on May 28th, the "Jakarta Post" published a leading article, making clear that Beijing wanted to make use of trade relations with Indonesia to carry out subversive activities. The paper also said that a planned visit of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce to China might well be postponed.

- LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY'S STATEMENT ON LAO-THAI RELATIONS

This/ According to the Voice of Vietnam, 7 June 1985 : The Lao Foreign Ministry on Thursday 6 June issues a statement condemning the Sino-Thai collusion against the three Indochinese countries, and demanding the Thai government to implement the two Lao-Thai Joint Communiques signed in 1979 and proposing bilateral governmental negotiations to solve existing issues between the two countries. // Statement released by the Lao Foreign Ministry on the Lao-Thai relations on the occasion of the 1st Anniversary of Thai troops' incursion upon the three Lao hamlets June the 6th which grossly violated Lao territorial sovereignty and crudely encroached upon the two Joint Communiques as well as the United Nations' Charter.

After noting that while struggling to safeguard Laos' sovereignty and territorial integrity the Lao government has demonstrated its good-will by taking the initiative of sending a delegation to Bangkok to seek a negotiated settlement of the problem of the three hamlets. The Statement says : "The Thai people of all social strata including many Thai politicians, the peace-and-justice-loving governments and peoples in South East Asia and in the world support the just position and goodwill of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, recognizing the fact that the three hamlets belong to Laos and condemn the acts of aggression taken by the Thai ultra-rightist reactionary forces, thus isolating them right in Thailand as well as in the international arena.

The Thai government was compelled to announce at the 39th Session of the U.N. General Assembly the withdrawal of Thai troops from the three Lao hamlets. Hitherto the ultra-rightist reactionary forces in the Thai ruling circles have not yet withdrawn all Thai troops from the area of the three Lao hamlets. ON the contrary they have continued to commit crimes against the local people and refused to resume the negotiations between the two countries in Bangkok. Furthermore they have stepped up their collusion with the reactionaries in the Beijing ruling circles, turning Thai territory into a sanctuary for rallying, fostering up and training the exiled-Lao reactionaries and sending them back to Laos for sabotage activities against the Lao people's peaceful labour in an attempt to weaken Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam and create confrontation between the Indochinese and the ASEAN countries, running counter to the aspirations of the peoples in South East Asian countries and the world over for solving all differences in their relations through negotiations and for peaceful co-existence and friendly relations.

It is a common knowledge that the Sino-Thai collusion in the multifaceted sabotage against the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and in using the genocidal Pol Potists to oppose the revival of the People's Republic of Kampuchea have all been defeated. This collusion has facilitated an increasingly deep Chinese infiltration into Thailand, throwing Thailand into an acute political crisis, multiplying Thailand's economic and social problems and reducing Thailand's international prestige. Finally the Thai people themselves have to bear the burden of all these consequences. The broad public opinion in Thailand is demanding that the ultra-rightist reactionaries in the Thai ruling circles stop colluding with the Chinese reactionaries, that the Thai government effect a policy of good-neighbourliness and peaceful coexistence with the Indochinese countries, restore and develop good-neighbourly relations with Laos, in accordance with the spirit and content of the two 1979 Lao-Thai Joint Communiques.

The people and government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic fully support these just aspirations of the Thai people. The Lao People's Democratic Republic constantly perseveres with a policy of good-neighbourliness with the Kingdom of Thailand, protects, maintains and develops the fraternal relations between the two peoples and will do its utmost to implement the two 1979 Lao-Thai Joint Communiqués. In this spirit the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic proposes that the Kingdom of Thailand appoint a governmental delegation to resume talks with the Lao government's delegation either in Bangkok or in Vientiane in order to solve all problems of mutual concern with the aim of improving and developing friendly relations between the two countries including the guarantee of security along the common border, the implementation of bilateral agreements on turning the Lao-Thai border into a border of peace and friendship, the development of economic, cultural, trade and other relations as well as regional and international issues raised by the two sides. This proposal conforms with the legitimate aspirations and interests of the two peoples and actively contributes to the settlement of problems in South East Asia as well as the Kampuchean issue and the building of peace, stability friendship and cooperation in South East Asia. The government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic hopes that its sincere proposal will receive a positive response from the Kingdom of Thailand. The Lao people and government earnestly appeal to the Thai people of all strata and the Thai political circles as well as the peoples and governments of other countries which cherish peace and justice in the world to strongly support the just stand of the people and government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic".

- VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SUPPORTS LAO'S GOODWILL

Hanoi, VNA June 8 - Following is the full text of a statement released here today by a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, welcoming Laos's sincere desire to develop friendly relations with the Kingdom of Thailand :

On June 6, 1985 the Lao Foreign Ministry released a statement on the Lao-Thai relations, reaffirming the consistent policy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to develop friendly relations with the Kingdom of Thailand, and proposing bilateral negotiations at government level to solve outstanding issues between the two countries.

This reasonable proposal demonstrates the consistent stance of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to pursue a friendly and peaceful policy towards the Kingdom of Thailand. That is the correct way to improve and develop the friendship between the two countries. It meets the aspiration of the Lao and Thai peoples and corresponds with the interests of peace, stability, friendship and cooperation among the South East Asian countries.

It is common knowledge that over the last year the Thai ruling circles despite worldwide condemnation by public opinion including the Thai people, have not yet withdrawn all their troops from the three hamlets in the Lao province of Sayaboury, continued to commit crimes against the local people, brazenly violated Laos' territorial integrity and the Lao-Thai Joint Statements in 1979 and refused to resume the negotiations between the two countries in Bangkok.

Realities over the past years have shown that the policy of the ultra-rightists in the Thai ruling circles of teaming up with the Beijing expansionists and hegemonists against the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and using the genocidal Pol Potists against the national revival of the People's Republic of Kampuchea has led Thailand to a deep political crisis and economic and social upheavals. This policy goes counter to the interests of the Thai people themselves as well as of peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam fully supports the correct stance of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and demands that the Thai ruling circles positively respond to the well-meaning proposal of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to resume immediately the negotiations between Laos and Thailand to solve issues between the two countries, to help make Southeast Asia a region of peace, stability, friendship and cooperation.

- THAILAND CARRIES OUT 820 VIOLATIONS OF KAMPUCHEAN SOVEREIGNTY
IN MAY 1985

VNA - According to SPK, in May 1985 the Thai Armed Forces used aircraft, warships, artillery and infantry to carry out 820 violations of the airspace, territorial waters and territory of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Thailand's L. 19, A.37 and F.5E planes reconnoitred and bombarded many areas along the Kampuchean-Thai border with places 20km inside Kampuchean territory.

In the sea, Thai vessels 607 times intruded illegally into Kampuchean territorial waters in areas near the Koh Kong and Koh Tang islands.

On the ground, Thai big guns fired 157 times into heights 581, 547, the Preah Vihear temple area, ends of road 56, Smandeng, Thmo-pour, Dangkun, Phnom Malai, Pailin etc...

Also in May 1985, many groups of Khmer reactionary remnants intruded illegally into Kampuchea from Thailand to sabotage the peaceful life of the Kampuchean people and were duly punished. The Kampuchean armed forces and local people put out of action 733 Khmer reactionaries, including 396 who were taken prisoners, captured nearly 300 fire-arms and many military equipments.

- STATEMENT OF VIETNAM'S FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN REJECTING
THAILAND'S PROPOSAL

Hanoi, VNA, July 5 : The Thai authorities are deliberately running counter to the common trend of dialogue now prevailing in Southeast Asia, says a Spokesman of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry in a statement released here today. The statement reads :

"Back from his recent visit to Beijing, Thai Foreign Minister Sithe Savetsila on July 3 put forth a proposal for an indirect negotiation between the so-called "Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea" and Vietnam.

"This customary trick of the Thai ruling circles is based on the fact that they are bound on slinging mud at the Kampuchean situation and slanderously charging Vietnam with invading Kampuchea. However, over the past six years, these allegations have fooled nobody. It is known to every-one that Vietnamese army volunteers have gone to Kampuchea to help the Kampuchean people overthrow the genocidal Pol Pot regime, save the Kampuchean nation from genocide. With their assistance, the Kampuchea people have built a new life in the country. Over the past six years, the People's Republic of Kampuchea has grown ever stronger. The administration headed by President Heng Samrin has enjoyed support from the entire Kampuchean people and effectively controlled the whole Kampuchean territory. As sheer criminals, the Pol Pot clique has had no place in the Kampuchean land and owed its existence to the help from outside reactionary forces.

Thailand's proposal is put forth at a time when the whole world is vehemently demanding an elimination of the Pol Pot gang and respect for the Kampuchean People's right to self-determination and national revival, and welcoming the 5-point proposal of the three Indochinese countries as well as the efforts of Indonesia and Malaysia aimed at accelerating the trend of dialogue for a peaceful settlement of the Kampuchean issue, and for peace and stability, in Southeast Asia. It is obvious that the Thai authorities are deliberately going against the common trend, trying to cling to the genocidal Pol Potists in the hope of bringing them back to Kampuchea, a thing that they have not been able to do militarily over the past six years, sabotaging the trend of dialogue and the peace efforts of the parties concerned, maintaining and prolonging tension in Southeast Asia.

Reality over the past six years has proved that is the way leading to an impasse beneficial for outside reactionary forces and detrimental to Southeast Asian countries, including Thailand itself.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam reaffirms the stance of the three Indochinese countries as elaborated in the 5-point proposal of January 18, 1985 and welcomes all efforts aimed at accelerating dialogue in order to find as early as possible a political solution to issues relating to Kampuchea and Southeast Asia as a whole and building Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, friendship and cooperation.

- ASEAN ABSURD PROPOSAL FOR PROXIMITY TALKS BETWEEN THE SELF-STYLED "COALITION GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC OF KAMPUCHEA" AND VIETNAM

After 2-day meeting in Kuala Lumpur earlier this week, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers adopted a joint statement calling for "proximity" talks between the self-styled "Coalition Government of the Democratic of Kampuchea" and Vietnam. Their proposal, in fact, is a copy of absurd allegations and demands made by the Thai authorities following their meetings with Chinese leaders in Beijing early this month. The Voice of Vietnam commented on Thursday, 11 July 1985. For this reason, it does not reflect the real stand of the ASEAN countries. The ASEAN proposal is doubtlessly aimed at saving the remnants of the genocidal pol Pot clique from disintegration. Over the past 6 years, the hostile forces have sought every possible mean to prop them up against the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the other Indochinese countries. As criminals, the Pol Potists have no foothold in Kampuchea. Without backing from outside forces, they would not have remained in existence. In the last dry-season they had suffered heavy blows dealt by the Kampuchean revolutionary armed forces in coordination with the Vietnamese army volunteers and their setbacks were described as the heaviest within 6 years. Now they are no more than a gang of murderers vehemently condemned by the Kampuchean people and progressive mankind. The Head of the Commission for External Relations of the Communist Party of Japan has said that no Kampuchean wants to restore the genocidal Pol Pot regime. An Indonesian Paper in its June issue has said that the Heng Samrin Government has power on Kampuchea, a sovereign country that the name of the Democratic of Kampuchea exists in paper only. So the ASEAN proposal for indirect talks between the so-called "Coalition Government of the Democratic of Kampuchea" and Vietnam is a challenge to the conscience of progressive mankind. It runs counter to the growing public demand for elimination of the genocidal Pol Pot gang in order to promote dialogue/early reach a political solution to the Kampuchean issue and other problems in South East Asia. It is necessary to recall that Vietnam only recognizes the People's Republic of Kampuchea. If any problem props up Vietnam will only discuss it with the People's Republic of Kampuchea under the leadership of President Heng Samrin. The PRK Government is enjoying ever broad sympathy and support from the entire Kampuchean people and effectively controlling the whole territory of Kampuchea. It is an established fact that the Kampuchean situation is irreversible. The ASEAN countries should not follow Thailand's lead because the latter's policy of confrontation and division

in South East Asia is only beneficial to the Beijing expansionists. We hope the ASEAN countries will positively respond to our fair and reasonable 5-point proposal on Jan. 18, 1985. This is the only correct way to solve the Kampuchean issue.

- THAI SCHOLARS SAY : BANGKOK MUST END SUPPORT FOR THE KHMER ROUGE

At the beginning of April, some 30 to 40 political science scholars and officials from the Thai Foreign Ministry held frank and straight-forward discussions on Thai government's policy towards Kampuchea. The participants in this "secret seminar" pointed out clearly the damaging consequences of the policy of Bangkok in supporting the Khmer reactionaries to oppose to the rebirth of the Kampuchean people. They reminded the Thai government of the Chinese threat towards Thai security.

The magazine "Nation" quoted a Thai Foreign Ministry official as saying : "Thailand should not be involved in the Kampuchean problem by supporting the Khmer Rouge because it could be very difficult for Thailand to accept any solutions which lead to the remaining questions. The refugees problem which is causing difficulties to Thailand, on the long term will affect Thai national security, economic growth and stability".

On the policy opting for war, Researcher Sombai Rakvichit said : "If Thailand lets the war to be prolonged by giving sanctuaries to Khmer Rouge forces, letting China transfer weapons through Thai territory to the Khmer reactionaries, letting the tripartite colcoalition freely using Thai territory, Thailand will have to increase its military budget which will also affect economic investment and tourism.

If the war is prolonged, more refugees and Khmer Rouge troops will come to Thailand. And there will be no way to push them out". Dr. Sombai held that "Thailand should distance itself from the Kampuchean and Indochinese problems. Thailand should follow a neutral policy". General Kriangsak pointed out : "The ASEAN decision to give military aid to the tripartite coalition will prolong the present situation, making Thailand to face with all problems". Dr. Perbum Kuakeo said that Thailand "should not become the vanguard in giving weapons to the Khmer Rouge because Thailand still has many heavy burdens". "Social Action" Party MPs demanded "the Government to seek neutrality, not to get Thailand involved in the conflict". The group of scholars from the universities of Chula, Thammasat, Tambangeng pointed out that "making Thailand become a buffer zone for the Khmer Rouge does not worth the price that Thailand has to pay". They pointed out that "It is only deceiving propaganda to say that the tripartite coalition is united".

The participants in the seminar expressed to the government their views that "Vietnam does not have any aggressive intentions towards Thailand. Thailand must seek ways to negotiate with Vietnam and Thailand must support the role of Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja who is negotiating with Vietnam.

The general views at the seminar were that the Thai government should not rely on China or continue to go side by side with Beijing in the Kampuchean question. The scholars were afraid that this situation will make Thailand "more and more dependent on China. China will make requests after requests, demands after demands such as to send Chinese warships to Thailand. "Making Thailand confronted with Vietnam to help China is a mistake. It is risky to let Chinese troops in to help Thailand. If the door is opened to let the Chinese troops in to help Thailand to fight Vietnam, there is no guarantee that the Chinese only enter Thailand to fight Vietnam. On the contrary it is very likely that China will make use of the situation to occupy Thailand, expand directly to the Malacca straights".

The group of scholars from the "Committee for coordination of people's activities for democracy" was of the unanimous view that Bangkok should pursue a neutral policy towards the Kampuchean question. Thailand should not follow China, should not respond to the ASEAN call for political and military assistance to the tripartite coalition because such a policy will "engage Thailand in an adventurous road both militarily and economically", "will cause difficulties to the Thai people", and benefit only China and at the expense of Thailand. To guarantee a genuine neutral policy, "Thailand must de-recognize, completely end all support for the Khmer Rouge, cease to be a springboard of China".

IV- VIETNAM AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE U.N. CHARTER (1945-1985)

The paper "Nhan Dan" on June 26, 1985 carried an article marking the 40th Anniversary of the signing of the U.N. Charter. The paper said : "40 years ago on June 26, 1945 after the German fascists signed the documents to surrender, then the Second World War ended in Europe, the representatives of 51 countries signed the U.N. Charter in San Francisco, U.S.A. On October 24th of the same year, the UN Charter came into force after it had been ratified by the U.S.S.R, U.S. , Great Britain, France, China and other countries, giving birth to the U.N. The U.N. Charter is aimed at maintaining peace, international security, developing friendly relations among nations, promoting international cooperation on the settlement of international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian issues and other development of all aspects of human rights and fundamental freedom rights. After 40 years of existence and development, from 51 members that founded the U.N., today it has extended to 159 members. Among 108 countries to join the U.N. since 1946 are 94 Asian, African and Latin American countries. Particularly in 1960, when the national liberation movement was at its full sway, the colonial system was completely collapsed, 17 African newly independent countries joined the U.N. In 1977, Vietnam was the 149th country that joined that international body. Alongside with the achievements in assisting its member countries to develop their economy, international economic cooperation and to promote cultural and social developments and humanitarian aid, the United Nations has confronted many difficulties in realizing its first and foremost task - that is to maintain peace and international security. It has not yet effectively solved the real issues of disarmament, the prevention of arms race and the danger of a nuclear war. The United States and some western countries have been trying to sabotage the progressive and positive ideology of the United Nations. The United States has misused the United Nations to interfering in the internal affairs of other countries such as Korea in 1950 and Congo, Zaire in 1961. The United Nations kept silent during the U.S. war of aggression against Vietnam. In recent years, the United Nations has committed with new mistakes in relation to the Kampuchean and Afghanistan issues. It did not condemn the U.S. invasion against Grenada, and Britain's aggression against Argentina over Malvinas. Realities over the past 4 decades have shown that many important events in the life of the world people took place outside the United Nations framework. The U.N. effectiveness was reduced, the principles and provisions of the U.N. Charter have not been respected and even misused. Thousands of meetings and hundreds of resolutions on Palestine, Namibia, apartheid and other international issues have not been implemented. In the present situation, when the balance of forces is in favour of the struggle against imperialism for the defence of national independence, the socialist and many non-aligned countries share the same goals in the struggle for peace and stability in the world.

Surely the world has driven the international body forward along a positive and progressive direction, preventing U.S. imperialists and other international reactionaries/misuses and misleading the world body.

/from/

In conclusion, the Paper pointed to the statement made by U.N. General Secretary Senor Javier Perez de Cuellar on the 40th Anniversary of the signing of the U.N. Charter who called for a strict respect for the U.N. Charter to strengthen world peace and security and exercise the human rights throughout the world.

- VIETNAM-SWEDEN AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS ON COOPERATION SIGNED

At the invitation of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, an economic delegation at governmental level of the Kingdom of Sweden led by Ton Tscherning, General Director of the Bilateral Cooperation Department of the Swedish Foreign Ministry, paid a visit to Vietnam from 27 May to 1 June 1985.

The Swedish delegation held talks with the Vietnamese counterpart led by Foreign Trade Deputy Minister Nguyen Manh Cam. Agreements and documents on the Swedish governmental aid to Vietnam in the fields of paper and forestry from 1985 to 1990 and in the fields of health services, electricity, transport and import of consumer goods, etc., from 1985 to 1987 were signed. Also present at the signing ceremony were Vice-President of the SRV Council of Ministers Tran Quynh, The Kingdom of Sweden's Ambassador to Vietnam Ragnar Dronberg and representatives of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

During its stay in Vietnam, the Swedish delegation was received by Vice-President of the SRV Council of Ministers Tran Quynh and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach. The Vietnamese leaders highly appreciated the aid given by Swedish Government and people, extolled the successes of the bilateral cooperation and expressed their desire to increasingly promote cooperations between the two countries. Vice-President Tran Quynh and Minister Nguyen Co Thach asked the Swedish guests to convey the sincere thanks of the Vietnamese government and people to the Swedish government and people for their generous and effective aid.

- VIETNAMESE EDUCATION MINISTER'S VISIT TO FRANCE

At the invitation of French Minister for Cooperation and Development C. Nucci, Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, Vietnamese Education Minister and member of Vietnam Communist Party's Central Committee, paid an official and friendly visit to France from 31 May to 8 June 1985.

During her stay in France, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh held talks with French Minister for External Relations R. Dumas, Education Minister J. P. Chevenement and Minister for Cooperation and Development C. Nucci. Cultural and educational ties, and the preparations for a meeting of the Joint Franco-Vietnamese Committee for Culture, Science and Technology to be held in Paris early 1986 were discussed. The two sides expressed their desire for strengthening and expanding cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

Mme Nguyen Thi Binh also visited a number of pedagogical centres, including Saint Claud pedagogical Institute, Sevres International Pedagogical Research Centre.

On 3 June, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh called on the French Communist Party Central Committee and was warmly received. She also met with the Franco-Vietnam Friendship Association, French Women's Union, Vietnamese Residents' Association in France, and a number of French friends who have supported Vietnam for years. The Minister received a number of French journalists and gave interviews to the French T.V. and radio.

On 7 June, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh in her capacity as Vice-President of Vietnamese Women's Union, attended the opening of the 15th Congress of the French Women's Union.

- FINLAND AIDS HANOI TO IMPROVE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

A Finnish Foreign Ministry delegation led by Ambassador David Johansson left Hanoi on 22 May 1985 ending its visit to Vietnam.

During its stay in Vietnam, the Finnish delegation held talks with a Hanoi Municipal People's Committee delegation on the improvement of the Capital's water distribution system. The two sides initialed an agreement on Finland's aid to the Capital of Vietnam in improving its water distribution system. Present at the signing ceremony were President of the Hanoi Municipal People's Committee Tran Vi, Vice-President of the Committee Truong Tung, Assistant to Foreign Minister Le Mai and Finland's Ambassador to Vietnam Esko Antero Lipponen.

From 16 to 18 May, in the capacity of the head of the Control Commission of the Finnish side, Ambassador David Johansson attended a meeting of the Control Commission of the Pha Rung naval dockyard (Quang Ninh province). The two sides agreed to continue to expand the bilateral cooperation in ship-building.

Ambassador David Johansson was cordially received by Vice-Minister of Communication and Transport Nguyen Dinh Doan.

- VIETNAMESE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE VISITS AUSTRALIA

At the invitation of Mr. John Kerin, Australian Minister for Primary Industry, Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Triu, Vietnamese Minister for Agriculture paid an official and friendly visit to Australia from May, 13th to the 23rd, 1985.

Minister Nguyen Ngoc Triu visited many research, training, production and processing bases for agriculture in many regions with different climatic and agrobiological characters, especially in the tropical and sub-tropical parts of Australia. On May 15th, Mr. John Kerin, Minister for Primary Industry, Mr. Gareth Evans, Minister for Resources and Energy and Acting Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Tom Euren, Minister for Local Governments and Administrative Services received and exchanged views with Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Triu. The meeting took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. Representatives of the Australia-Vietnam Friendship Association, of mass organizations, and some professors from Australian National University called on Minister Nguyen Ngoc Triu and had cordial talks with him.

- INDONESIAN NATIONAL PRESS COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN'S VISIT TO VIETNAM

At the invitation of Chairman of Vietnam Broadcasting and Television Committee and Vice-Chairman of Vietnam Journalists' Association Tran Lam, Vice-Chairman of the National Press Council of the Indonesian Republic B.M. Dia and his wife paid a visit to Vietnam from 31 May 1985.

The Indonesian guests paid tribute at President Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum and visited his residence. On 1 June, they were warmly received by Chairman of Vietnam Journalists' Association Hoang Tung and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach.

On 2 June, the Indonesian guests paid a visit to Vietnam's Press Centre and had cordial talks and exchanged their experience with Vice-Chairman of Vietnam Journalists' Association and a number of heads of Vietnamese newspapers and journal organs.

On 6 June, B.M. Dia and his wife were received by Chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong. Also present at the meeting was Vice-Chairman of Vietnam Broadcasting and Television Committee Ly Van Sau.

During their stay in Vietnam, the Indonesian guests also visited the War Museum, the Museum of History, Vietnam News Agency, Vietnam Broadcasting and Television Committee, Hoa Binh Hydro-electric project, Quang Ninh province and Ho Chi Minh City.

IV- ECONOMICS - FOREIGN TRADE

- EIGHTH PLENUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF

THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM ON THE QUESTIONS OF PRICE, WAGES, AND MONEY

The Eighth Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam took place from 10 to 17 June 1985 in Hanoi. Its debates concentrated on the questions of price, wages and money.

The Plenum reviewed the economic and financial developments of the country since the Liberation of South Vietnam (1975). After the 6th Plenum of the Central Committee (4th Congress in September 1979), the Party worked out a number of orientations and policies on production and distribution. Many local sectors and factories boldly applied new methods to overcome difficulties in order to increase production, to control commodities, to improve to some extent the financial state of the country and to solve some urgent problems concerning the price and wage issues.

The Eighth Plenum has drawn a definite and overall lesson, that is we must decidedly eradicate the administrative bureaucratic management system and apply the methods of economic accounting and democratic centralism, as well as socialist enterprising. Only by doing this, we can have effective enterprising and increase production.

The Plenum clearly pointed out that at present stage of the economy, the urgent and necessary task is to eradicate the administrative and bureaucratic management in the realm of price and wages. It is a decisive breakthrough to put the national economy on an accounting and socialist enterprising system on the basis of planning, as well as the promotion of the people's collective mastery and creativeness of the local authorities, branches, production teams, factories throughout the country.

The Plenum is highly unanimous on the aim and orientation to solve the questions of price, wages and money :

- To exploit to the full the potentials of labour, land, various trades as well as material and technological bases in keeping with an appropriate structure aimed at increasing production with high productivity, high quality and increased output.

- To stabilize the people's living standards, first and foremost, the living standards of the workers, public employees and servicemen. The State must hold the control of production, distribution and market, step by step, balance the budget and money supply.

- To accumulate capital within the national economy to carry out socialist industrialization and to build up material and technological bases for socialism.

- To promote socialist transformation and increase the state and collective economic sectors and to enlarge family based economy.

- To contribute to the strengthening of national defense and social security, determined to foil enemy's sabotage activities and to fight effectively all kinds of social negative phenomena.

All Party's branches, government institutes and mass organisations from Central to local levels must concentrate their efforts on implementing the Eighth Plenum's Resolution considering it as their primary and important task in the later half of 1985.

The Eighth Plenum's Resolution on price, wages and money is the direct result drawn out from experience and reality of our Party and State's works over the past years. It reflects the profound and decisive changes in the orientation and policies of our Party. It does not only concern with price and wages but also with trade, financial, money, planning, economic management in order to eradicate resolutely administrative and bureaucratic management, to move into the economic accounting and socialist enterprising system and to pave the way for our national economy to move rapidly forward.

- TO ABOLISH SUBSIDY-BASED SUPPLIES; TO ADJUST SALARIES TO
COMPENSATE FOR DIFFERENCES IN PRICES

Over the last four years, in Long An province in South Vietnam, the system of subsidized supplies has been abolished and salaries adjusted to compensate for differences in prices: a one-price system has been in force for each commodity. This has resulted in replenishment of the State's commodity fund and economy in consumption (300 tonnes of food grain per month). The network of State trade has gained control of the market (commodities and cash in circulation), maintained relative stability in prices, and brought greater revenues to the State budget.

In Tay Ninh province, after six months of application of this system, the monthly economy in consumption amounts to 500 tonnes of rice and more than 30% of the pork consumed previously. Prices have been stabilized and no further adjustment has been necessary.

In An Giang province, eight months of application of the system have resulted in a vigorous boost to production, and in stable and somewhat improved living conditions for wage-earners. All deliveries to the State have been overfulfilled. The province has enough goods and cash at its disposal and prices have been stabilized. In spite of serious floodings which cost the province 64 million dong, it did not have to ask the central administration for subsidies; on the contrary its contributions to the central budget in the first quarter of this year increased by 85% compared with the same period last year and accounted for 43% of the annual target. Moreover, the

province has sent assistance worth 40 million dong to a northern border province and a contribution of four million dong to the Hoa Binh hydropower project now under construction.

In Quang Nam - Da Nang province, after two months of application of the system, the State has gained control over the bulk of goods and cash in circulation. Prices have shown no major fluctuations; home-trade personnel have worked much better; negative phenomena in society have visibly receded, and remarkable improvement has been brought to living conditions.

In Quang Nam - Da Nang, An Giang, Tay Ninh, and Long An, the newly-calculated production costs, which include the adjusted wages and salaries, have led the enterprises to revise their economic-technical norms and eliminate unproductive expenses. Although the adjusted cost prices are slightly higher than previously, they are lower than the retail prices on the market, and all enterprises have shown profits.

Ho Chi Minh City has applied the system to food-grain supply in Thu Duc and the 10th district and to rice supply in the whole city, and has been selling fish, fuel and textiles at commercial prices. This has resulted in economy in food grain, an increase in the State food-grain fund, and a reduction in the negative phenomena accompanying the dual price system. Many preposterous results of the previous system of supply in kind have been exposed. The city administration has concluded to the possibility of adjusting salaries to compensate for differences in the prices of food grain next July, and later to compensate for differences in the prices of other goods hitherto rationed and sold at very low prices.

In the port city of Hai Phong, the new system will be applied this July.

Preparations are being made in Hanoi for its application. Preparatory steps are also being taken in such provinces as Bac Thai, Vinh Phu, Hai Hung, Ha Son Binh and others.

- VIETNAM'S FOREIGN TRADE: ITS PRESENT STAGE AND OUTLOOK

In the process of developing the country's economy to large-scale socialist production from its present state of predominantly small-scale production, the greatest difficulty encountered by the Vietnamese people lies in that they have, on the one hand, to ensure the people's livelihood and, on the other, to strengthen national defence, while proceeding with the overall task of industrialisation, building the material and technical bases of socialism. One of the most important directions towards resolving this difficulty and, indeed, contradiction is, as has been ascertained, to strictly coordinate the internal development of the economy with the stepping up of foreign trade exchanges and expansion of international economic relations.

This mainly consists in developing economic exchange and cooperation with other countries around the world, first and foremost with the Soviet Union and the fraternal socialist countries of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA); creating the required conditions for Vietnam to import those equipments, machinery, raw materials and technical goods that it does not produce yet; exploiting to the utmost the advantages offered by the international division of labour and the latest achievements in the field of science and technology; acquiring foreign funds and technology to bring into full play Vietnam's abundant natural resources and manpower, thereby increasing internal production and labour efficiency and improving the quality of products. All this constitutes a highly significant factor that makes it possible for the Vietnamese economy to move forward from small production to large-scale socialist production, bypassing the stage of capitalist development.

It can, therefore, be said that, during the initial stage of the period of transition, the objective of Vietnam's international economic relations in general, and that of its foreign trade in particular, is to bring about an inflow of foreign capital resources needed for the country's socialist industrialisation, for building the material and technical bases of socialism and meeting the demands for new technology, equipments, materials and other goods for purposes of extensive reproduction, national reconstruction and ensuring the people's livelihood.

For its crucial role and position, foreign trade has constantly been the object of the Party's and State's concern. Boosting exports to such an extent that they can cover the cost of imports is considered both an urgent task and one of strategic significance in the present context of Vietnam's overall economic activities.

Considering the demands of the overseas market as well as the distinctive character and level of the country's economic development during the initial stage of the transitional period, goods available for export from Vietnam consist primarily of tropical farm produce, forestry and fishery products, certain consumer items, a number of heavy industrial products and minerals. Outstanding among these are rubber, tea, coffee, flooring timber, marine products, anthracite coal, carpets, textiles, garments, rattan and bamboo wares. In fact, a considerable effort is being exerted nation-wide to improve export performance and, hence, our capabilities to import modern technology, industrial equipments, machinery, spare parts and necessary materials for carrying out the scientific and technological revolution and the country's industrialisation programme. Particular stress is being laid on imports of machinery, technical goods and raw materials destined for agricultural development, consumer goods manufacturing, export commodities production as well as for improvement and expansion of the present transport systems. Included among these imports are such basic items as fertilizers, insecticides, fuels, cotton, yarns, coking coal, paper pulp, etc.

With a view to substantially increasing the supply of export goods, particularly as regards those subject to centralised control and exclusive export by the centre, a series of new administrative and economic measures have been adopted, covering a variety of problems, from export planning to application of various economic levers. Several of these measures are aimed at providing an answer to such important questions as : proper investment for new equipment, plant expansion or building new enterprises designed for production of export goods : setting up and completion of designated areas for growing industrial plants or rearing livestock for export purpose... As a matter of principle, the target of export investment is prescribed in the annual or five-year State plan, and the planned export targets assigned to different branches and localities are to be balanced by State allocations in terms of raw and other materials required for production of export goods or for making purchases of these, as the case may be; such materials may equally be used to meet other needs such as packaging, transport and maintenance care of export goods.

The central export - import corporations under either the Ministry of Foreign Trade or other ministries or branches authorised to deal in foreign trade business actually undertake the bulk of Vietnam's international trade transactions, being responsible for the export of goods that are subject to centralized control, and for the implementation of all the agreements and protocols on the exchange of goods concluded between the Vietnamese Government and those of other countries. As a result, the value of these corporations' combined exports accounts for nearly 80 per cent of the total value of Vietnam's exports to the outside world each year.

In the localities, the task incumbent on their own joint export companies consists primarily in securing the supply of export goods and making such goods readily available to the central export-import corporations. The local companies deliver to central corporations goods that are under exclusive control by the centre and may, consurantly, entrust the latter with the export of locally-controlled goods at their disposal and the import of goods that are in local demand.

Where conditions are united, certain cities and provinces may be authorised by the State to conduct, on their own, business transactions with specified markets under the control and guidance of the Ministry of Foreign Trade. Exports by these cities and provinces are restricted to goods that are produced out of local resources or as a result of joint production or cooperation with other localities. Such exports are allowed only after the planned production targets assigned by the State have been fulfilled.

Through the consistent application of the new policy and economic measures, the total value of Vietnam's exports in 1983 rose by 80% as against 1980 with the following growth percentage rate achieved by each line of products: agricultural goods 241 per cent; forestry products 207 per cent; fishery products 641 per cent; light industrial goods and handicraft articles 134 per cent. If compared with the previous year 1982, export earnings in 1983 rose by 22 per cent while the growth rate for raw farm produce was 57 per cent; processed agricultural goods 50 per cent; forestry products 17 per cent, sea products 79 per cent; industrial goods and products of small and handicraft industry 7 per cent. The rate of increase was particularly high in respect of the following individual items: groundnut, cigarettes, rubber, duck feathers, coffee, cassia, aniseed oil, spices, seagrass ware, rattan and bamboo ware, hand-tools, cement, salt...

In terms of geographical distribution of exports, goods shipped to the Soviet Union, Laos, Kampuchea and the fraternal socialist countries of the CMEA accounts for up to 75-80 per cent of the total value of Vietnam's exports, while the rest was made up of exports to other areas, above all to friendly countries bound to Vietnam by ties of friendship and cooperation like India, Algeria, number of countries in the Middle-East and Africa and several industrially developed countries. Trade and economic relations between Vietnam and these countries are being conducted on the principles of equality and mutual advantage, through which Vietnam has equally acquired a variety of needed materials and other products.

In the field of international economic relations in general, and foreign trade in particular, the cardinal principle and main direction pursued by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam consists in enlarging and strengthening all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union, achieving all-round cooperation with Laos and Kampuchea, developing cooperation with the socialist countries of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance and, at the same time, appropriately developing relations with other countries. This principle and direction has been translated in the two-fold increase in the value of Vietnamese exports to the Soviet Union and other countries of the CMEA in 1980 as against 1976. Out of the total value of exports, the share of the Soviet Union and the CMEA countries rose from 50 per cent in 1976 to 67 per cent in 1980 and almost 70 per cent in 1982.

The achievements scored thus far together with other development projects in the field of economic, scientific and technological cooperation within the framework of the CMEA have and are creating new possibilities and conditions for the rapid growth of exports and economic relations with the outside world.

In the light of the Resolution of the sixth Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and that of the High-level Conference of the CMEA held in June this year, Vietnam is formulating corresponding policies and working out flexible organisational forms to enlarge trade and international cooperation including export and import, economic cooperation, scientific and technological cooperation, service trading, credit loans... As always, particular emphasis is laid on export and effective international cooperation to create diversified sources of export commodities. Expanding production of goods for export involves the rational exploitation of internal resources in conjunction with the application of appropriate forms of economic cooperation with other countries, first and foremost with the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries: goods processing, compensation deals (repayment, in products, of foreign investment loans), integration and joint venture... The State will continue its policy of encouraging production of export goods by means of investment priority, supply of food and production facilities, price-fixing priority, rationalisation of profit levels, foreign exchange allocation, wages and bonuses, etc., Such a policy is aimed at creating a powerful impact on export so that in the late 80's export earnings will cover the cost of import goods other than equipment and largely contribute to the realisation of the country's socio-economic goals. The State will, before long, determine the direction of increasing the sources and structure of export goods in an effort both to have more and more goods available for export and to constantly improve the quality of products. In the days immediately ahead, this effort will be directed at tropical fruit and forestry products; sea products; certain minerals, art and handicraft articles, light industrial goods, processed goods, and a gradually increased number of heavy industrial goods, particularly engineering products. In the forthcoming years, an intense and rapid development should be made in respect of fruits and vegetables, groundnut, cigarettes, soya beans, jute, sesame, shrimps, cuttlefish, livestock and poultry meat, etc. and a gradual expansion achieved as regards the growing of long-term industrial plants over wide areas of specialised culture.

The export-import management mechanism will be made flexible so that, while upholding the principle of State monopoly of foreign trade, it will create conditions for the big enterprises, the localities and government branches to establish contacts with markets abroad, and encourage, to the maximum extent, the production of export goods.

The implementation of the policies and measures in the above overall direction is opening up new possibilities and conditions for Vietnam's foreign trade to achieve a steady growth, thus effectively contributing to the cause of national reconstruction and defence and to the development of economic relations with countries around the world, in the interests of peace and socialism.

- NEWS IN BRIEF :

- A meeting at technician level on the MIA's issue took place in Hanoi on July 4 to 5, 1985. According to the Vietnam-US agreement.

The two sides exchanged points of view on the MIA's issue. The Vietnamese side reaffirmed its consistent goodwill in solving the MIA issue and handed over the U.S. side a list of 32 Americans missing in action which the Vietnamese side had just collected the remains or information.

The U.S technicians visited a place where a U.S bomber B.52 had been shot down.

The U.S side appreciated the great efforts made by the Vietnamese side, thanked the SRV Government and the Vietnamese people for its humanitarian policy of goodwill, and expressed their desire to cooperate with Vietnam on MIA's issue.

- On 3 July, 1985, a delegation of Democratic and Republic congressmen from the House of Representatives of New York called on the Mission of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United Nations. A Republic congressman delivered to the Head of the SRV Mission a resolution recently passed by the House of Representatives of New York, which put forward a proposal to the SRV Government for a visit of a delegation from the House of Representatives of New York to Vietnam on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Ending of the Vietnamese War. In the resolution, the congressmen also expressed their hope and honour in contributing to constructive talks with Vietnam in order to solve the outstanding problems between the two countries.

For reference.

EXCERPT FROM INTERVIEW OF MR. NGUYEN CO THACH,
FOREIGN MINISTER OF SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

(TIME July 15, 1985)

On a Vietnamese withdrawal. We believe we have the basis for a solution to this problem. We demand the liquidation of Pol Pot. That can be accomplished by the withdrawal of aid from China and an end to the sanctuary provided by Thailand. In return, we will agree to pull our forces out of Kampuchea simultaneously. We do not ask that Pol Pot be killed. He can be exiled in Peking or in Bangkok or in Spandau jail. This is fair. Perhaps he can open a bar like former South Vietnamese Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky.* We do not ask for a superior position. Perhaps Pol Pot will resist his liquidation, and it will take five or six months to accomplish it. The timetable can be negotiated.

On a future Kampuchea. We will agree to an accommodation between the Heng Samrin government and Sihanouk. They can negotiate the sharing of power. It is their affair. We will support the right of self-determination of the Khmer people and a Khmer reconciliation on the basis of the elimination of Pol Pot. There is an opening to other forces as well. We have always respected the right of self-determination of the Khmer people, as long as they do not commit aggression against us.

On foreign bases in the region. We propose Kampuchea as a zone of peace in Southeast Asia : no interference by other nations, no aggression, no claims of territory on any side. We do not consider Cam Ranh Bay a military base like Subic Bay and Clark because we retain sovereignty over it. We think we must freeze the foreign military presence in the region. The U.S. bases in the Philippines may stay the way they are. We do not like this, but we do not ask them to leave. I have told Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos that unless the bases are used against Vietnam, we will respect them.

On an overall settlement. We propose an international conference to resolve remaining questions on Kampuchea. This could be attended by the U.S., the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France, and by others that have shown interest in the region, such as Poland, India, Indonesia and Canada. We are reluctant to have the Japanese participate because they have supported the Khmer Rouge in the past.

On a proposal that the U.S. establish an office in Hanoi to handle missing-in-action cases. We are prepared to discuss this. This issue can be solved if there is an appropriate atmosphere. Lack of contact can lead to misunderstandings. We wish we could end the lack of diplomatic contact with Washington and have good relations between our two countries.

On relations with China. All nations agree with the idea of removing Pol Pot except China. When you watch Chinese policy, you must watch as in the circus. You watch the hands of the prestidigitator. You watch things appear and disappear./.

* Ky actually owned liquor stores in California before filing for bankruptcy earlier this year.