

EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
Press and Information Section

12 Victoria Rd., London W8. Tel. 01-937 1912

No. 7

20 August 1985

SPECIAL ISSUE

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I - ON THE OCCASION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF VIETNAM NATIONAL DAY.

VIETNAM, 40 YEARS OF RAPID STRUGGLE AND GLORIOUS VICTORIES.

Forty years ago, on September 2nd, 1945, President Ho Chi Minh Solemnly read out before the world Vietnam's historic Declaration of Independence stating that Vietnam had gained in fact, independence and freedom and that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the first workers and peasants state in South East Asia came into existence. And today it became the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The past 40 years are the longest and hardest process in the 4000-year history of struggle for national construction and defence of the Vietnamese people. It is one of the longest and most arduous struggles in the history of struggle for independence, freedom of all nations the world over. The past 40 years, however, are the most glorious pages in the history of Vietnam, a nation that has recorded many great exploits in their long history. It is also the most eloquent page in the history of the world people in the struggle for independence and freedom.

Vietnam is not a very big country in terms of area and population. From a colony, a poor and backward economy, Vietnam had to wage a liberation war against its powerful enemies who had such military and economic potentialities many times much bigger than that of Vietnam itself. The liberation war waged by our people in protracted and difficult because its result greatly affects our enemies' global interests.

The war undertaken by the French colonialists in Indochina was not only aimed at regaining their domination in Indochina but also linked very closely to the defence of their colonial system, particularly in Africa. Therefore they concentrated at the highest level their military and financial resources into the first Indochina war. That war impoverished France and our victory at the Dien Bien Phu Battle contributed to the collapse of the world colonialism.

The U.S. imperialist war in Vietnam is the spearhead of the US 'flexible strategy' in the 1960s to oppose the national liberation movement of the world. For that reason, the US mobilised, at maximum level, their military and financial potential during peacetime in an attempt to crush the struggle of the Vietnamese people in order to undermine the national liberation movement and to oppose socialism in the world. Our people's struggle and the US criminal war which inflicted heavy losses of lives and resources on the American people, have deepened the American social structural crises, weakened US imperialism and contributed to the change of the balance of forces in favour of peace, national independence, democracy and socialism. The victorious struggle of our people is immensely encouraging the struggle of the people of the world against the imperialist forces. Because it has proved that a small nation can defeat the most powerful imperialist force.

In the struggle against colonialism and imperialism, our people had to face the betrayal of the reactionary clique in the Beijing ruling circles. Because of the strategic significance of our people's struggle in relation to the global interests of colonialism and imperialism and that of the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists have colluded to oppose the national reunification and the total victory of our people. They have been trying hard to divide the world peoples front in support of Vietnam against the US to gain the monopoly of the struggle of the Vietnamese people. They also took advantage of the support and assistance of the Chinese people given to the struggle of Vietnamese people, an assistance never to be forgotten by the Vietnamese people, to serve their criminal schemes. Today, an independent, unified and strong Vietnam is a great obstacle for the expansionist scheme of the reactionary clique in the Beijing / with the French colonialists and the American imperialists

ruling circles in South East Asia, an easily accessible area of their expansion.

In those unequal struggles, our people had to do their utmost to fight uncompromisingly for our objectives : independence, reunification and socialism. Through the protracted war over the past 40 years, our people totally liberated the country, reunified our Fatherland and are advancing to socialism bypassing the stage of capitalist development. On that basis, the independence of our nation : is now the most stable in the history of 4000 years of our national construction and defence. There is no doubt about it. More than a million of the US expeditionaries, their satellites and puppets were finally defeated. More than half a million of the Chinese invaders, concentrating on a narrow strip of land on the Northern border of our country and more than a hundred thousand of Pol Pot troops in the South Western border were ignominiously defeated. Dozens millions tonnes of bombs and shells could not conquer our people. Billions of dollars could not bribe our nation. Any aggressor who dares to threaten our national independence has to take this into account.

The Vietnamese people is one, Vietnam is one. For our people the reunification of our Fatherland is sacred and considered at the same time as a source of strength. Therefore, the Vietnamese people had to carry out a long and arduous struggle against all enemies who wanted to divide our country permanently, in two and sometimes in three, aimed at weakening our country and facilitating their aggression. By their own blood, our people have today, unified their country while the imperialist forces have been trying to oppose that same aspiration of some peoples in Asia. With the reunification of the country, our national strength was doubled, our national independence has been more consolidated.

From an economy with mostly small-scale production it was right from the beginning of our struggle for independence and reunification, when only half of our country was liberated, our people were resolved to follow the road to socialism bypassing the stage of capitalist development. That road conforms to law of human evolution and the trend of our times. The existence and growth of the socialist system with the USSR as a pillar are a guarantee for our people to advance along that road, to get rid of the exploitation of the economic capitalist system, a very sophisticated and heavy exploitation that many newly independent countries become victimised and could not prosper. Our independence has a strength of national unification and that of socialism and therefore its durability is long lasting.

In our 4000-year history, this is the third time our people rose up to topple the foreign domination. And surely this would be the last. The victories obtained by our people in the last 40 years not only opened up a new era of independence and socialism in the whole of our country but also greatly contributed to the cause of the world revolution. For that reason, although our nation is small, and it was forgotten in the world before 1945, has now become the conscience of mankind. The name of Uncle Ho has gone deep in the heart of the world people. The Dien Bien Phu Victory has become a pride of all oppressed people. The total liberation of Vietnam was considered by the world people as a milestone in the world history.

Today it is not surprising to note that imperialist and international reactionary forces have been carrying out one campaign after another of deception and slander to besmirch the image of Vietnam in the world. But clouds can not cover up sunlight, deceptions and slanders can not save them from defeat.

The struggle of the peoples for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism over the past 40 years in which our struggle is a part of, has shown that at present, even a small nation, being in a small island, can regain independence and build a prosperous country if knowing how to combine their national strength with that of our times. A country no matter how big it is but goes against the trend of the present times and the fundamental interests of its own people and those of the peoples in the world will surely suffer defeat.

Today the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists colluding with imperialist and reactionary forces are the threat to independence, sovereignty, peace and security of all nations in Indochina and South East Asia. Their expansionist and hegemonist schemes are big but their abilities are limited, their actual power is weak and the expansionist and hegemonist policy was designed after the post Vietnam period, a period in which the three revolutionary currents have been growing stronger and in offensive position compared with that of the Second World War. If previously, old imperialists could maintain their colonialist domination in the world over centuries, after the Second World War US imperialism, no matter how powerful it is, can only sow storms in some thirty years. The Beijing hegemonists being far behind from them will surely suffer the same fate as of their predecessors.

Since the birth of imperialism, the last 40 years are the longest peace time that the world people can maintain. Within 40 years, however, Vietnam is the only place where savage and continuous wars took place. The Vietnamese people have however overcome the biggest difficulties and obtained victories with international significance.

Holding aloft the invincible banner of independence and socialism, combining the national and international strengths, with militant solidarity with the Lao and the Kampuchean peoples, enjoying the support and assistance of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, the sympathy and support of the progressive mankind, certainly our people will carry out successfully the cause of national construction and defence, thus actively contributing to peace, security and prosperity in South East Asia and the world over.

40 YEARS OF CREATING THE MATERIAL AND TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF  
SOCIALISM IN VIETNAM.

1/ An arduous process 1945 - 1954.

In August 1945, taking advantage of the victories of the Allies' forces over the Japanese fascist forces, especially the victories of the Soviet armed forces over the Japanese Kwantung Army, the Vietnamese people rose up in arms to seize power. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam came into being on September 2nd, 1945.

/early/ The immediate task of the first socialist state in South East Asia was to overcome the legacy of starvation which took place in 1944 and 1945 when Japan still occupied Vietnam. The new government found itself in a very difficult situation. There was no money in the bank, people were still starving, and the French colonialists were determined to come back.

From 1946 to 1954, nine years of resistance struggle against the French colonialists, Vietnam could not concentrate on building its economy. The only industrial works were some small factories producing weapons such as rifles, grenades and explosives. When the resistance came nearer to the victory the people were given lands and that was the first step toward economic reconstruction in Vietnam.

1955 - 1960 :

When the French colonialists left North Vietnam the industrial bases were small and almost insignificant. They left behind : Hon Cai coal mine, Hai Phong Cement plant, Nam Dinh textile factory, some matches and distillery plants, and power stations which the biggest had the capacity of only 24,000 kw.

The period of 1955 - 1960 witnessed an accelerating economic development. After healing the wounds of war, many industrial and agricultural bases were built. They were the Bac-Hung-Hai (three provinces of Bac Ninh, Hung Yen, Hai Duong) irrigation work, Hanoi engineering factory, rubber, cigarette and soap plants ; four big power stations in Uong Bi, Viet Tri, Hanoi, Vinh. The transport and communication net work was repaired and reconstructed including the railway from Hanoi to Friendship Pass (border with China), all the bridges on High ways 1 and 5. All these projects were completed in a short period of time and contributed a great deal to the industrial growth of that period.

1961 - 1965 (The first five year plan).

In this period Vietnam built a series of big factories which enable the industrial growth rate to reach 13% annually. Over 30 big plants were built around Hanoi and two new big industrial cities were constructed in Thai Nguyen and Viet Tri.

In heavy industry, several large plants were built including the Thai Nguyen Steel work, Bach Dang Ship-yard, Ha Bac ammonia Fertilizers plant, Lam Thao Super phosphate plant and Thac Ba Hydro-power Station.

Light industry could satisfy 80% of consumer goods, some of the new commodities were produced in this time including glasswares, synthetic fibres, high quality textiles, sugar, stationaries, bicycles, canned food, coffee, tea . . .

1965 - 1972.

By 1964, the first five year plan was stopped due to the destruction war waged by the United States against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The whole economic machine was diverted to accommodate the circumstances of the war. Most of the big factories and industrial complexes were divided into small units and evacuated. Air defence was erected to make sure that those could not be moved could continue their production. Many new small local industrial plants came into being during this time. Although the national industrial infrastructure was heavily bombed, thanks to the small and local industries, the industrial growth rate averaged annually 4.8%, especially engineering and road transport were quickly developed.

1973 - 1975

This period characterized by the restoration and reconstruction of factories and plants destroyed by the American air planes during the destruction war. The results were enormous, more than 300 industrial plants and 3 million square metres of housing were restored, all the transport net-work including railways, bridges, roads, ports and irrigation works were back to operation.

1976 - 1980 (the second five year plan)

This was a period that socialist construction was carried out in the whole country. With the liberation of South Vietnam, the Vietnamese people took over a relatively advanced light industry, mostly for producing consumer goods. However, heavy industry was almost no existent apart from some power stations and a steel mill with a capacity of 50,000 tones per year. All these factories and plants in the South depended on imported fuel and materials as well as foreign know-how. In the entire country, more than 200 new industrial projects mostly small ones were built.

1981 - 1985 (the third five year plan)

In this period, the State focused all investment on a number of big projects with the aim to increase the production of foods, energy and export commodities. Therefore, agriculture, power generation, oil exploration, coal extraction have been given priority. Phalai thermo-power Station, Hoa Binh and Tri An hydro-power stations are under construction. Coal output will be doubled or even tripled and two cement plant with a capacity of producing 1.2 million tonnes a year are being built.

All in all, during the last ten years, the socialist construction in Vietnam has produced fine results. In agriculture, by 1984, cultivated land increased by 1 million hectares, the cultivated areas covered by irrigation net-works increased by 800,000 hectares, and by drainage systems by 333,000 hectares. Tea increased by 15,000 hectares reached 55,000 hectares in total, coffee increased by 7,800 hectares reached 37,000 hectares. New afforestation was 900,000 hectares. In industry, by 1984, electricity production was nearly 4.9 bi-lion kw/h, coal production was 5.2 million tonnes. Steel and other metals production was 131,000 tonnes, cement production was 2.4 million tonnes, fertilizers production was 240,000 tonnes and timber production was 382,000 cubic metres. Railways increased by 361 km and that of roads increased 3,489 km.

2/ Industrial Capability.

Today Vietnam has got the industrial basis necessary for further development.

In 1985, Vietnam has the capacity to produce 5.6 billion KW/h of electricity, with a capita of 100 KW/h. Also Vietnam has the capacity to extract 9 million tonnes of coal, to produce 150,000 tonnes of steel and 3 million tonnes of cement.

In engineering, Vietnam can produce tools for general use, a whole range of diesel engines with capacity of 12.20 horse power, electric generators, water pumping engines with capacity of 1000- 8000 cubic metres/hour, tractors with 12, 6.5 horse power, tug boat of 250 horse power, passengers ferries with 150 seats, freight vessels of 1000 tonnes.

In the precision engineering industry, Vietnam can produce electric meter, film projectors, amplifiers, assemble TV, radio, and produce some of semi-conductors.

Vietnam can also produce some of the complete equipments such as brick plants with capacity of 20 million bricks a year, coal selectors with capacity of 2 million tonnes a year, rice husking plants, capacity of 15 tonnes/shift, sugar mills, small hydro power stations... Vietnam is in the research to produce some heavy equipments such as electric generators of 250 KW, turbine of 1000 KW, water pumping machines of 30,000 cubic metres/hour... and the aim is to join the production lines of the comecon countries.

In light industry, Vietnam has 13 big spinning plants in which 12 are modern and can spin 80,000 tonnes of fibre a year. There are 11 big textile factories owned by the central government and 25 smaller owned by provinces. The state owned textile factories, produce 420 million square metres per year. There are four jute factories producing 5 million sacks per year. In the food processing industry, Vietnam has tropical climate which favours growing fruits and vegetable for export. Today Vietnam can process 750,000 tonnes of these food, 100,000 tonnes of tea, 1 billion packs of cigarettes... The net-work of transport has also developed over the years. Today Vietnam has the capacity to transport by sea, railway, motorway, and by air from North to South. Vietnamese ports and ship yards can handle all export and import goods and also render some services to foreign ships and freights. Oil and gas have always been at the attention of many Vietnamese. Since 1960, Vietnam has begun to explore oil and gas inland and off shore. In 1981, Vietnam and the Soviet Union signed contract to set up a joint venture to explore and extract oil and other minerals. This year, the reserves of gas and oil have been determined and the No 1 oil rig for offshore oil exploitation was commissioned on 26 June. In chemical industry, the most prominent are Lanthao super phost-phate plant with a capacity of 300,000 tonnes a year, Bac Giang ammonia fertilizers plant 110,000 tonnes a year, insecticide plant of 30,000 tonnes a year. Vietnam can produce some basic chemical substances such as sulphuric acid, soda... but all the whole Vietnam chemical industry is still small and backward. The country is striving to develop petrochemical industry as well as other advanced chemical technology.

In order to develop the potentials of the country, first and foremost, Vietnam has to determine its mineral resources and manpower. Of late, Vietnam has worked out a clear picture of its geographic structure, the development and location of various minerals. Vietnam has completed the geographic map with the scale of 1/500,000. Today there are 50 kinds of known minerals in Vietnam, more than 30 are classified as of commercial quantity and are under extraction. Manpower is one of Vietnam major assets. The total workforce increased from 18.4 million in 1976 to 23.1 million in 1984. In 1976, the people with college or higher-level degree was 145,900 by 1981 it had increased to 265,500. In the same period, the number of skilled workers increased from 1,053,500 to 1,859,200. Manpower allocated for the construction of material basis sector is about 80,000 of which 50 % are skilled workers. There are 17,000 people who have college level working in this sector.

With these resources and manpower in hand, Vietnam in the near future will be able to accelerate the process of creating the material and technical infrastructure thus ensuring the successful construction of socialism in the first socialist state in South East Asia.

## 40 YEARS OF HEALTH SERVICE AND EDUCATION

### Great achievements of public Health Service

Before August 1945 Revolution, Vietnamese people lived in the condition of slavery, starvation and diseases. Throughout the whole country, there were 47 charity hospitals and midwiferies. There were 51 doctors, 152 assistant doctors. Every 180,000 people had a doctor and the infant mortality rate was 26 % the world highest life expectancy averaged only at 38.

After 1954 victory of the resistance war against the French colonialists, Vietnam had only 4000 hospitals. There were 100 doctors, 200 assistant doctors and more than 1000 nurses. Public health service net-work simply did not exist.

Ten years later, in 1964, there were in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam 1500 doctors, more than 2500 assistant doctors, and thousand of nurses in every hamlet through out the country. A very efficient net-work of health service was established, and there were two medical colleges, 7 health research institutes including the Institute of traditional medicine.

Today Vietnam has 9781 healthcare centres covering all hamlets, cooperatives and state farms as well as factories... Every district in Vietnam now has a central hospital. At the central level, there are 28 big and modern hospitals and institutes in which there are 7 research institutes on preventive measures against health hazards, including vaccines, and labour protection measures. There are 4 institutes researching malaria, one for nutrition research, one for acupuncture and one for traditional medicine.

There are 6 medical colleges now and one college to train managers for public health service. Now Vietnam has 17,000 doctors and 205,780 hospital beds. The birth rate reduced from 3.2 % in 1976 to 2.3 % in 1983.

### Some of the main figures

	<u>1945</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1983</u>
- Hospitals	47	540	400
- Health service and maternity home in rural area	0	8,544	10,000
- Beds	3,000	159,088	218,130
- Doctors	51	9,006	17,710
- Chemists	174	30,992	52,400
- Nurses	2,404	83,330	111,400
- Infant mortality rate (under 1 year-old)	30 - 40 %		2.12 %
- Mortality rate of mothers	2 %		0.15 %
- Life expectancy	38		68



### Progress in education.

Before the August Revolution, education in Vietnam was an instrument of enslavement used by the French colonialists and feudalists. 25 % of the population were illiterate.

The eradication of illiteracy was the prime concern of President Ho Chi Minh and the Government right after the Revolution. However, due to successive wars of aggressions launched by the French and the US imperialists, not until 1958 was illiteracy eradicated in the North. In the South, this historic task was fulfilled toward the end of 1972, only three years after the liberation.

After 1954 Victory over the French colonialists, in the North of Vietnam, only 20 % of the total number of children at school-age went to school. But in 1975, this number exceeded 90 %.

After the great Victory of the 1975 Spring, a new era was opened up in Vietnam's education. The education service transformed the neo-colonialist schools in the South, built the unified socialist education over the whole country, thus contributing to stabilising the political and social situation in the newly liberated zones. After 10 years of construction and development, we have achieved big and comprehensive successes.

Today, Vietnam has 12,012 schools for general education, 832 schools for vocational education and 35 colleges or universities. There are 11.8 million pupils and 156,000 students.

The number of graduated students are 330,000 in which there are 4500 PhD's and 200 professors.

Vietnam has 150 scientific research centres with 20,000 researchers which include 1,100 PhD's and 170's.

From 1981 up till now, 43 colleges have conducted researches on 200 projects concerning 40 scientific and technological programmes of the Government. 30 colleges have signed 2000 contracts with a fund of more than 10 million Dong (Vietnam Currency).

## 40 YEARS OF VIETNAMESE AGRICULTURE

### ITS ACHIEVEMENTS AND TASKS

Forty years have elapsed since the Vietnamese people regained independence in 1945.

Promoting the tradition of heroic fighting against foreign invaders and natural calamities, the Vietnamese farmers and other rural folks made active contributions to ensuring logistic supply for the fights against the French colonialists and the US imperialists. Today after the country has been reunified, they are making ever more effective contributions to socialist construction.

### Revolutionary Changes in the Vietnamese countryside and development of the Vietnamese

#### Agriculture Over the Past 40 years

Since the August 1945 Revolution, the Vietnamese countryside has experienced dramatic changes through the land reform, the agricultural collectivization movement and the socialist transformation of agriculture in the South.

Prior to the August Revolution, the landlords (excluding the landed French colonialists) in North Vietnam, though accounting for only some three per cent of the population, owned 24.5 per cent of the total land area (50 per cent if the publicly-owned land under their control is included). Meanwhile, the peasants, most of them landless or having little land, who accounted for nearly 60 per cent of the population possessed only 12 per cent of the land, mostly of the least fertile category.

Through the rent-reducing campaign and land reform in northern Vietnam, more than 800,000 ha were allotted to over two million peasant households and families of working people totalling more than eight million persons or 72.8 per cent of all households in the countryside.

After the victorious war of resistance against the French colonialists in 1954, agricultural collectivization was carried out in Northern Vietnam in various forms, from low to high, in a sweeping socialist movement in the northern rural areas in 1959 and 1960.

Through the movement for technical and managerial improvement, the agricultural cooperatives gradually broadened their sizes and become more and more socialist in character. Up to 1976, northern Vietnam already had some 13,000 cooperatives each embracing a whole commune and managing from 300 to 500 ha of land, the whole involving 96.5 per cent of the total of peasant households. Farm production gradually expanded along the line of intensive farming, multi-cropping and comprehensive development of agriculture including rice, subsidiary food crops, industrial crops, husbandry, fishery, forestry and other occupations in service of agriculture.

Following the complete liberation of southern Vietnam and national reunification in 1975, a program of economic rehabilitation, including agricultural restoration, was started: millions of people dislodged by war were helped to return to their native places, more than half million hectares of land were reclaimed, irrigation works built and intensive farming and multi-cropping expanded. Together with the liquidation of the vestiges of feudal and neo-colonial exploitation, the Party organized work-exchange teams, and production collectives and cooperatives in order to solve the land problem. The agricultural collectivization movement has developed quite strongly in southern Central Vietnam. In Nam Bo (formerly Cochinchina) production collectives and cooperatives were set up involving about 40 per cent of the agricultural workforce and 30 per cent of the tilled land.

The collective organizations were set up immediately in the newly liberated areas on the principles of voluntariness, the right to collective ownership of the means of production, the strengthening of the material and technical bases, application of scientific and technological advances and the building of a progressive and dynamic managerial mechanism. So far, southern Vietnam has formed some 900 agricultural cooperatives and 28,000 production collectives, involving 80 per cent of the peasant families.

The implementation of the current five-year State plan (1981-85) as well as the need to develop the economy and improve the people's living conditions in the remaining years of the eighties require a quick renovation of the economic management mechanism to make it conformable with the period of transition to socialism. In the light of the Party's resolutions in agriculture, we have realized the necessity to settle satisfactorily the relationship between the State and the cooperatives and among the cooperatives themselves. Alongside political and ideological education, due attention must be paid to the three interests: the interests of the labourer, the interests of the collective, and the interests of the whole society and the State. The contract quota system adopted by the Party in 1981, under which quotas are assigned to each production group and individual labourer in cooperatives and production collectives has led to a better use of the peasants' working capacity, the application of scientific and technical advances to production, the development of production, the fulfilment of peasants' obligations to the State, the improvement of the labourer's living conditions and the consolidation of the relations of production in agriculture. Thanks to the contract system, rice output has increased markedly. In 1982 and 1983, many cooperatives in northern Vietnam achieved or surpassed the level of ten tonnes of paddy per hectare a year, a record which had been held for 14 consecutive years by the Vu Thang cooperative in Thai Binh province (some 150 km southeast of Hanoi).

After national reunification, the national average rice output was 2-2.1 tonnes per hectare for a single crop. It increased to 2.5 tonnes in 1982 and 2.6 tonnes in 1983. Nationally, in 1983 13 provinces (9 provinces in the South and 4 in the North) got six tonnes or more of paddy per hectare a year.

In the socialist agriculture, the State farms play an important role in producing essential farm products and promoting collective production. At present, the State farms are working three per cent of the total cultivated land and their output value accounts for six per cent of the total value of farming. Yet, their exports make up 20 per cent of the total farm export value. The farms have played the vanguard role in reclaiming virgin land and building new economic zones, and have topped their quotas for both cultivation and husbandry. Almost all have operated with profit.

#### Revolutionary process in the countryside

Over the past 40 years, agricultural production has been on a constant rise through a process of revolutionary development in the countryside and met the

basic requirements of various revolutionary periods ;

The August 1945 Revolution succeeded after the horrible famine brought about by the Japanese fascists and the French colonialists, in alliance with a serious flood and repeated crop failures. In response to the Party and President Ho Chi Minh's call, a widespread movement for food production and thrift was launched among the people, resulting in a marked increase in food output, which enabled the revolution to get over the famine.

During the anti-French war of resistance (1946-54), the enemy occupied many fertile areas while trying to strike at the foundation of the resistance forces by destroying their means of food production. To defeat this scheme of the enemy, the Party adopted the strategy of protracted resistance and the guiding principle of self-reliance.

It launched nationwide emulation movements for food production and thrift. The well-known call made by President Ho Chi Minh : "The field is the battlefield, hoes and ploughs are weapons, peasants are combatants, the rear emulates with the front" won warm response from the peasants. Thanks to partial democratic reforms, the rent-reducing campaign and the land reform, the peasants' forces were replenished physically and morally to promote agricultural production, and effectively meet the needs of the front as well as the life of the population in the rear, thus positively contributing to the victory over the French aggressors.

After the Dien Bien Phu victory in 1954, the Party led the people to overcome the consequences of war. In 1956, rice acreage increased by 17 per cent and rice output by 46 per cent over the pre-war level. Coupled with the mobilization for socialist transformation of agriculture and agricultural collectivization, agricultural production saw a dramatic up turn : rice output in 1958 was more than five million tons with an average yield of 2.2 tons per hectares in the single crop, a record figure by that time.

When the US imperialists expanded their war in South Vietnam and escalated their war of destruction in North Vietnam, agricultural production was reorganized to meet the two parallel tasks of stepping up production and standing ready to fight. Most strikingly, it was at that juncture that a revolution in the agricultural structure took shape along with more intensive application of scientific and technological advances to agricultural production.

### Revolution in the agricultural structure

The revolution in the agricultural structure, first of all the revolution in the cropping system took place in many northern localities as early as the 60s. The Summer rice crop, which had been grown for more than two thousands years, has been replaced by the Spring crop on more than 60 per cent of the rice acreage, opening up a new possibility for intensive farming, development of subsidiary food crops, and larger production of green manure and fodder. With the inception of the Spring crop, yearly rice output has increased markedly. In 1974, per hectare paddy output in North Vietnam was 2.42 tonnes for a single crop, which makes five tons a year, and total paddy output reached 5.5 million tons, more than twice as much as that before the August 1945 Revolution. The pig herd increased to six million head, also double the pre-revolution figure.

Within a short length of time and under hard conditions of war, we gradually built the material and technical bases of agriculture, trained a contingent of science workers and technicians and applied important scientific and technological advances to agricultural production. Meanwhile, State investments in agriculture increased constantly, especially in water conservancy, field building, in the

/animal medicines,/ production of farm machines and tools, fertilizers, insecticides, /fodder, etc. Many agricultural research centres have been set up and consolidated. Tens of thousands of agricultural cadres of tertiary education and hundreds of thousands of others of secondary education have been trained. Scientific and technical advances have been applied in all farm jobs : irrigation, soil improvement, the production of plant and animal strains, fertilizers and fodder crop protection, veterinary work, farm machanization, etc. Most striking have been the achievements in the biological revolution : newly-created strains have led to leaping advances in productivity and output ; biological means such as insecticide, organic fertilizer and fodder, etc, have helped better exploit the potentials in manpower and land to replace part of the imported materials by locally available materials. The contract quota system has greatly promoted the scientific and technical revolution.

The important thing is that the activities of science and technical workers as well as the application of scientific and technical advances, farming techniques have greatly improved and the basic scientific and technical standard of the peasants, especially the young rural folks, has raised noticeably.

Since the country was reunified in 1975, alongside the task of economic restoration and reorganization of production, southern Vietnam has made impressive progress in agricultural production. The rice cropping system in the Melong delta has been rearranged with the dry-season crop as the main rice crop of the year. At the same time, most localities have grown the short-term Summer-Autumn rice crop alternating it with soybean and jute growing. In Central Southern Vietnam, intensive farming has been applied in the Spring and Autumn rice crops. Only the Central Highlands, wet rice has been gradually introduced. The subsidiary food crops have quickly expanded in many provinces, accounting for 30-50 per cent of total output compared to only two per cent before liberation.

Such techniques as timely sowing and planting, crop rotation and multi-cropping, the use of organic fertilizers, moisture-keeping and anti-erosion measures, etc, which were unknown to southern farmers in the past are now widely applied.

The national average of rice yield in 1983 was 2.6 tons per hectare. Total rice output doubled that before the August 1945 Revolution and food output in general more than doubled. That was quite of high tempo of development, considering the continual and fierce war the country has gone through.

To develop agriculture all-sidedly and  
at a high tempo and take it to large-scale  
socialist production

On the immediate tasks of agriculture, Party General Secretary Le Duan has said : "In order to take agriculture of our country to large-scale socialist production, it must be restructured, and its managerial mechanism must be renovated. We must develop the encouraging results of agricultural production, concentrate our efforts on developing agriculture allsidedly and at a high tempo on the basis of stepping up intensive farming, increasing productivity and practising multicropping while making full use of our manpower and land resources in order to expand the cultivated acreage, develop husbandry solve the food problem and expand the industrial crops".

To develop an allsided agriculture means to grow both food crops and industrial crops and to develop husbandry at the same time. As well as solving the food problem, attention must be attached to raising cattle especially those suited to the tropical conditions.

The potentials for producing farm produce for export remain abundant, especially tropical and sub-tropical products such as coffee, rubber, fruits and short-cycle plants which can be rotated with rice in rice-producing areas. For this purpose we need to zone large and medium-sized areas specializing in producing vegetables, tobacco, volatile oils, first quality rice, potato, piglets, duck feather, etc. A comprehensive plan has been worked out to step up the produce for export, which will involve all economic sectors (State, collective and family) and will look after all stages of the process, from production harvesting, processing, packing and distribution. Agriculture has also to ensure the supply of materials for industry, first of all food industry.

In a tropical country like ours with little cultivated land per capita, this can be fulfilled only with the continual practice of intensive farming on the entire arable land, with the opening of new lands, the full use of manpower and constant increase of labour productivity. Intensive cultivation on the entire acreage requires the improvement of arid soils including saline and acidic soils, barren soils, coastal sandy banks, submerged areas, marshes, etc. as well as a rational regime of crop rotation and wide application of scientific and technical advances, so as to achieve ever higher yields on different categories of cultivated lands.

As well as reviewing our agricultural production, we are working on strategic programs for food production, cattle breeding and export. In the 1986-90 five-year plan which is being elaborated, we have been able to see what measures to be taken to increase our agricultural production rapidly and comprehensively in the light of past experience in the guidance and management of agricultural production.

1/ Firstly, we must rearrange the agricultural structure; in other words to reorganize agricultural production nation-wide so as to advance from small-scale production to developed socialist large-scale production with a great quantity of commercialized products. Alongside the reorganization of production in the traditional rice-producing delta areas, new rice-producing areas will be built in the mid-land and mountain regions with an appropriate crop structure (industrial crops, perennial fruit trees, forest trees) and social labour will be redistributed in a suitable manner. Building on the advantages of our tropical conditions, we shall reschedule the cropping seasons in year on a scientific basis. Cultivation must be well combined with husbandry in order to form balanced ecological systems in each region and each locality comprising agriculture, forestry and fishery so as to increase the output of plants and animals and diversify our rural economy.

The industrial-agricultural or agricultural-industrial structure will enable us to make the best use of the potentials of each district. District planning must be effected along the line of intensive farming and specialized cultivation (especially for export farm produce) and the combination of agriculture (which in a broader sense should include cultivation, forestry, and fishery) with industry (including handicrafts and small industries) in order to create favourable conditions for technical inputs, the application of new techniques in production, in the processing and distribution of goods.

2/ To quickly renovate the managerial mechanism of agriculture, to increase the role of technical services in order to ensure the steady supply of materials for the production units,

3/ The reorganization of production and the renovation of the managerial mechanism have created conditions for introducing scientific and technical advances to production and building the new countryside, thus contributing to consolidating the socialist relations of production and raising the ideological, cultural and technical levels of the peasants. New strains, biological medicines,

organic nutrients and the mechanization and chemicalization of agriculture have proved to be of a decisive role in increasing plant output and productivity over the past years.

4/ Great importance must be attached to international cooperation on the principle of mutual benefit because this would enable us to use international aid in a way conformable to our situation and needs.

Many difficulties are ahead but it is certain that the Vietnamese agriculture will continue its firm advance at a quick tempo and in a comprehensive manner to socialist large-scale production.

# SOME DATA

	1975	1980	1984
Gross output of food (thousand tons)	11,461.10	14,382.60	17,867.40
Rice productivity (100kg/ha)	21.19	21.10	27.50
Food production per capita (kg)	240	268	310
Pigs (thousand head)	8,651.50	9,999.50	11,766.50
Buffaloes (thousand head)	2,188.20	2,313.00	2,550.00
Oxen and cows (thousand head)	1,464.60	1,660.00	2,417.00
Poultry (million head)	64.00	74.50	89.20

## II. The provinces with high rice yields (100 kilograms/ha) in 1984 :

- Tien Giang	: 79.40	- Hai Phong	: 58.90
- Phu Khanh	: 70.72	- Dong Nai	: 58.86
- Minh Hai	: 65.42	- Ha Nam Ninh	: 57.47
- Thai Binh	: 65.18	- An Giang	: 57.08
- Ben Tre	: 65.14	- Dong Thap	: 55.56
- Cuu Long	: 64.26	- Thuan Hai	: 54.64
- Quang Nam-Da Nang	: 63.80	- Hanoi	: 53.22
- Hau Giang	: 63.38	- Thanh Hoa	: 52.82
- Ho Chi Minh city	: 61.06	- Nghia Binh	: 51.86
- Hai Hung	: 59.30	- Kien Giang	: 50.06
		- Darlac	: 51.74

II - COMMUNIQUE OF THE ELEVENTH CONFERENCE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF  
KAMPUCHEA, LAOS AND VIETNAM (15th and 16th August 1985).

The eleventh conference of the Foreign Ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was held in Phnom Penh, capital of the People's Republic of Kampuchea on August 15th and 16th, 1985.

1- The Conference is glad to note that the militant solidarity and multifaceted cooperation among the three Indochinese countries have been unceasingly consolidated and deepened with a new quality. It highly appraises the major successes registered by the three peoples of Indochina in their struggle for national defence and construction, especially the resounding victories recorded by the Kampuchean people since the beginning of this year in view of the progress in all fields made by the Kampuchean people in the last six years. The People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam decide the following, the Vietnamese volunteer forces will pursue their yearly gradual withdrawals from Kampuchea and will conclude their total withdrawal by 1990. In case these withdrawals are taken advantage of to undermine the peace and security of Kampuchea, the governments of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam will consult each other and take appropriate measures.

2- The conference is pleased to note that in spite of the obstacles raised by certain reactionary circles, a general understanding has emerged where-by a genuine dialogue has to be initiated so as to solve the question of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the "Kampuchea Problem". The five-point position put forth by the Indochinese countries on January 18th, 1985 and which is welcomed by broad sections of public opinion in Southeast Asia and the world provides a basis for substantive dialogues aimed at attaining a political solution acceptable to the various parties.

3- After having seriously studied the proposal made by the ASEAN states regarding direct or indirect talks with a view to reaching a settlement of the question of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the "Kampuchea Problem", the conference holds that it is important to know who would be the interlocutors who can do so and that this question can be discussed between the ASEAN states and those of Indochina.

4- The ASEAN states have nominated Indonesia as their representative while those of Indochina have selected Vietnam to represent them. The forthcoming meeting between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and his Vietnamese counterpart offer an adequate opportunity for a discussion of problems connected to a political solution regarding peace and stability in Southeast Asia as well as Kampuchea. This meeting will mark a new step in the process of peaceful coexistence among Southeast Asian states.

5- The conference considers Malaysia's proposal on proximity talks to be an initiative that deserves examination. For her part, the People's Republic of Kampuchea declares her readiness to start talks with various Khmer opposition groups or individuals in order to discuss the realisation of national reconciliation on the basis of the elimination of the genocidal Pol Pot clique as well as the general elections to be held following the total withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer forces from Kampuchea.

6- The conference welcomes the humanitarian policy and the efforts of the Lao People's Democratic Republic as well as the progress made in the cooperation between the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the United States on the search for missing Americans. It hails the initiative of the



Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the opening of high-level talks with the American side aimed at reaching a fundamental settlement of the question of M.I.A.S. (missing in action). It is convinced that the high-level Vietnam-U.S. talks on the question of MIA's and other matters of mutual interest will facilitate the restoration of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The conference highly appreciates the good-will of the People's Republic of Kampuchea who has renewed her offer to contribute to the settlement of this question, although the United States government has not given up its hostile policy toward her.

7- The three Indochinese countries stress their principled position and their good-will in their relations with the People's Republic of China. They consider that the time has come to resume the China-Vietnam talks with a view to normalizing relations between the two countries proposed by the Vietnamese side several occasions. The restoration of relations of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea on the one hand, and China on the other, would constitute an extremely important factor to ensure peace and stability in Southeast Asia as a whole.

8- The three peoples of Indochina wish and are prepared to do their utmost to establish relations of good neighbourliness with Thailand. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea support the proposal of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to start talks at government level between Laos and Thailand to solve problems in their mutual relations in the interests of both countries and of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The conference declares that the three Indochinese countries or each of them respectively are always prepared to negotiate and to sign with Thailand a treaty based on the following principles : mutual non-aggression-non-interference in each other's internal affairs-respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity within the present borders-refusal to let one's own territory be used against other countries-peaceful coexistence.

9- It is the conviction of the conference that if all parties concerned engage in mutual dialogue to solve substantive problems in their mutual relations, a propitious atmosphere is bound to be created for an overall settlement to be reached, thus leading to a solid and durable peace in Southeast Asia. An international conference will be convened in order to guarantee and supervise the implementation of the agreement. The two groups of states in Southeast Asia will agree between themselves on who will participate in this conference.

10- The conference fully supports the declaration of Secretary General of the C.P.S.U. M.S. Gorbachov on July 29th, 1985 on the unilateral suspension and the prohibition of all nuclear weapon testing as well as the new proposal of the Soviet Union on the consolidation of peace and security in Asia.

The conference highly appraises the major role played by the non-aligned movement in the anti-imperialist struggle. It voices its certitude that the coming conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of non-aligned countries in Luanda will contribute significantly to the strengthening of solidarity and cohesion within the non-aligned movement and will at the same time further promote the struggle for peace, national independence and a new international economic order. The conference particularly stresses its militant solidarity with and vigorous support for the struggle for independence and freedom waged by the peoples of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Namibia, Southern Africa and all Asian, African and Latin American countries./.

FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH'S INTERVIEW WITH  
VNA ON THE SUCCESS OF THE ELEVENTH CONFERENCE OF THE FOREIGN  
MINISTERS OF KAMPUCHEA, LAOS AND VIETNAM.

**QUESTION 1 :** Why do Kampuchea and Vietnam choose this time to declare that the withdrawal of all Vietnamese army volunteers from Kampuchea will be completed in 1990 ?

**ANSWER :** One year ago, the three Indochinese countries planned to complete the withdrawal of Vietnamese army volunteers from Kampuchea within from five to 10 (ten) years. However, the development of the situation over the past year allows them to decide that 1990 will be the year for the total withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer forces. That decision is another evidence of the steady growth of the Kampuchean revolution and spells out the Kampuchean peoples determination to assume by themselves the task of national defence. And, at the same time, it proves the fact that Vietnam has given wholehearted assistance to the Kampuchean people and always respected Kampuchea's independence and sovereignty.

**QUESTION 2 :** If there is a political solution, will the time for the completion of troop withdrawal be curtailed ?

**ANSWER :** This is an unilateral decision made by Kampuchea and Vietnam on troop withdrawal. Of course, in the years ahead if there is a political solution which leads to the immediate elimination of the Pol-Pot clique, the immediate uprooting of its sanctuaries in Thailand and an immediate end to the support for the Pol-Pot gang, then the immediate withdrawal of all Vietnamese army volunteers will be conducted in parallel with the complete elimination of the Pol-Potist forces.

**QUESTION 3 :** The communique of the conference of the Foreign Ministers of Kampuchea, Laos and Vietnam can be understood that it does not reject the proposal for proximity talks advanced by the Asean countries on July 8 ?

**ANSWER :** The Indochinese countries welcome the Asean countries proposals for direct or indirect talks aimed at settling the Kampuchea issue. However, it is necessary to reach an agreement between the parties concerned on the composition of the talks.

**QUESTION 4 :** Why will the coming Indonesian-Vietnamese talks be of great importance ?

**ANSWER :** The only way to resolve issues relating to Southeast Asian countries is to hold talks among themselves. However, this has not been achieved over the past six years. The Indonesian - Vietnamese talks is just a prelude to that process and it will bring about peaceful co-existence among countries of different social regimes in this region.

**QUESTION 5 :** Can it be understood that the Indochinese countries welcome the proposal for proximity talks initiated by Malaysia in April 1985 ?

**ANSWER :** It is clear in Malaysia's proposal that the internal affairs of Kampuchea will be settled by the Kampuchean people themselves. The three Indochinese countries welcome Malaysia's proposal in that spirit. The People's Republic of Kampuchea has declared that it is prepared to hold talks with groups or individuals of opposition khmers to discuss the realization of national reconciliation on the basis of eliminating the Pol-pot clique and discuss the holding of general elections after all Vietnamese army volunteers withdraw from Kampuchea.

**QUESTION 6 :** Then, will there be negotiations with the Pol-Pot elements ?

**ANSWER ;** According to the P.R.K.'s statement, the goal of the negotiations is to

eliminate the Polpot elements. As regards who would participate in the negotiations and how these would be conducted, there should be an agreement with the P.R.K.

QUESTION 7 : What about the possibility of Sino-Vietnamese talks ?

ANSWER : The communique of this Conference has created adequate conditions for the resumption of Sino - Vietnamese talks aimed at normalizing the relations between the two countries.

QUESTION 8 : Will you speak of the prospect for high level U.S. - Vietnam talks on the question of Americans missing in action (MIA) in the Vietnam war ?

ANSWER : Both sides, as up to present, share the wish for fine results of the talks due to be held later this month.

QUESTION 9 : Of late, the Lao side proposed talks with Thailand at the governmental level. Why haven't such talks been arranged ?

ANSWER : The Lao side has proposed talks with Thailand at the governmental level. According to some foreign sources, the Thai side proposes talks between local authorities of border provinces of Thailand and Laos. Talks were held between the two countries at the governmental level in 1984, but then the Thai side unilaterally suspended them. This time, the Thai side proposes Thai - Lao talks at the level of local administration. How can such talks settle outstanding problems relating to the two countries. In fact, such a proposal is but a Thailand's move to shirk the talks between the governments of the two countries.

QUESTION 10 : What is the practical significance of the three Indochinese countries proposals put forth at this conference ?

ANSWER : The proposals advanced at this Conference are weighty ones as they reflect the realities in Southeast Asia over the past six years, and at the same time, they conform with the legitimate interests of the parties concerned. They can open up process of talks, help ease tension and create an atmosphere favourable for a peaceful solution to Southeast Asian and Kampuchean issues./.

#### PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA FOREIGN MINISTER

#### HUN SEN HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN PHNOM PENH. AUGUST 16, 1985.

On August 16, 1985, Foreign Minister Hun Sen held a press Conference in Phnom Penh on the result of the 11th Conference of the three Indochinese Foreign Ministers (August 15 - 16). Following are the excerpts :

Elaborating the decision to withdraw all Vietnamese volunteer forces from Kampuchea by 1990, Mr. Hun Sen said :

" A year ago we stated that in the absence of a political solution to the Kampuchean question, the Vietnamese volunteer forces would withdraw from Kampuchea within 5 to 10 years. Thanks to the positive development of the situation in Kampuchea over the last 6 years, especially the victories won by the Kampuchean people and army during the last dry season, we can affirm that Vietnamese volunteer forces will continue to withdraw annually and the process will be completed by 1990. There are two major points which I would like to stress. Firstly, the growing strength of the People's Republic of Kampuchea which no enemy can reverse. Secondly, the internationalist obligation of Vietnam in Kampuchea will be fulfilled when the Kampuchean people are strong enough to defend themselves. Moreover,

it proves that Vietnam has always respected for the sovereignty of Kampuchea.

I would like to point out that this is a unilateral decision in case there is no political solution. If there is a political solution to the Kampuchean question, the Vietnamese volunteer forces will withdraw from Kampuchea in conjunction with the elimination of Pol Pot and the abolition of their "sanctuaries" in Thai territories. That means that the withdrawals will be quicker and complete sooner. In case these withdrawals are taken advantage of to undermine the peace and security of Kampuchea, the governments of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam will consult each other and take appropriate measures".

Elaborating on the question of national reconciliation, Mr. Hun Sen said :

" We are in a victorious position, however, we declare our readiness to negotiate with other Khmer groups or individuals to carry out national reconciliation on the basis of elimination of Pol Pot and to discuss about the holding of a general election after Vietnamese volunteer forces totally withdraw from Kampuchea. We will try to reach an agreement acceptable to various sides on the basis of the elimination of Pol Pot.

So far, all sides agree that if there is any political solution it must be through dialogue. As stated clearly in the Joint Communique, the three Indochinese countries are very pleased with any form of dialogue direct or indirect in order to solve the problem. As far as the ASEAN's proposal is concerned, I welcome the proposal of direct or indirect negotiation. But one question must be raised : who will be the participants that can solve the problem. The proposal put forth by Thailand and endorsed by Asean, we have rejected it. But we did not reject dialogue, we rejected the proposed list of the participants of dialogue in that proposal. We welcome the proposal made by Malaysia on the spirit that the question of Kampuchea should be solved by Kampucheans themselves. We consider it as an initiative which deserves examination. But first and foremost, the problem is also who will be the participants of the dialogue".

Mr. Hun Sen then answered some questions put to him.

Q : Mr. Minister, can you tell us the number of Vietnamese troops at present in Kampuchea ?

A : The strength of Vietnamese troops and that of Kampuchea are enough to cope with all contingencies.

Q : In the next dry season, if Pol Pot uses the sanctuaries in Thailand to attack Kampuchea, would the Kampuchean armed forces make hot pursuit ?

A : If we had made hot pursuit into Thai territory during the last 6 years, Pol Pot and other Khmer reactionary forces would have been eliminated already. Our people and army's task is to defend our national territory.

Q : What does it mean by saying elimination of Pol Pot ?

A : We mean to eliminate Pol Pot forces militarily and politically. That means to eliminate Pol Pot forces as an organization not as an individual, that means Pol Pot himself. It should not be understood that we demand to kill Pol Pot and all of his followers. We demand that Pol Pot forces should be eliminated politically and militarily. Those individuals in the Pol Pot rank should be given a chance to be reeducated and become good citizens, useful to society.

Q : Sihanouk and Son Sann have pointed out their contradictions with the Pol Pot forces, so if Sihanouk and Son Sann disassociate themselves from Pol Pot, will the P.F.K. hold talks with them ?

A : It is true that the Pol Pot, Sihanouk and Son Sann forces are engaged in daily conflicts . As every one knows, the reason for Sihanouk's threat to resign was that Pol Pot forces attacked and killed Sihanouk's men. We are prepared to hold talks with Sihanouk and Son Sann groups. In negotiations we can discuss ways to develop our country, such as free general election and other issues. I want to emphasize one important point that previously, we said that if Sihanouk and Son Sann disassociated from Pol Pot we would hold talks with them, but now, our position is that negotiations can be carried out before they disassociate from Pol Pot. In other words, if they want to carry out national reconciliation on the basis of the elimination of Pol Pot, they can carry out dialogue with us before they repudiate Pol Pot.

Q : If Sihanouk and Son Sann agree to hold talks, will the talks be carried out directly or indirectly ?

A : If tomorrow Mr. Sihanouk and Mr. Son Sann say that they are prepared to negotiate with the PFK, I shall be prepared to leave Phnom Penh the day after tomorrow for a convenient place to meet them personally.

Q : What about an international conference ?

A : The best way is to let the Kampuchean problem be solved by the Kampuchean people themselves. If the problem is solved through direct negotiations between Kampuchean opposition parties, that will be fine and there will be no need for an international conference on Kampuchea. I understand that those countries who are concerned about the Kampuchean problem, will also be at ease and pleased when the problem is solved through negotiations. Yet an international conference on South East Asia is still important to settle general problems in the region in order to ensure a lasting peace, security and stability in S.E.A.

Q : Would you please elaborate the prospect of dialogue between the two groups of countries in South East Asia, Indochina and ASEAN, and the importance of the forth coming meeting between the Vietnamese and Indonesian Foreign Ministers ?

A : Our view is that although there were contradictory view points among the two groups of countries, dialogue has become the general developing trend. There is no alternative. We are optimistic that the problems will be settled through negotiations. That's why this time the three Indochinese Foreign Ministers' conference consider the forthcoming Vietnam - Indonesia meeting as an important opportunity for conducting negotiations aimed at improving relations between the Indochinese and ASEAN countries, leading to peaceful co-existence between countries with different social systems. And that is the basis for peace and stability in South East Asia.

Q : Will China abandon the Pol Pot clique ?

A : I think this question should be put to China. There have been no signs that China would abandon Pol Pot. So far China has not found other instrument to replace Pol Pot in Kampuchea. That's why China still continues using Pol Pot to oppose the Kampuchean people in particular and the Indochinese peoples in general.

Q : What is the impact of the dry season victory on the seat of the so-called Democratic Kampuchea at the U.N. ? ?

A : We think that there will be no significant change this year on this issue, because the Chinese expansionists and the U.S. imperialists are still very adamant about this issue. However, it makes no difference to us, because the situation inside Kampuchea will decide every thing.

SOVIET UNION'S SUPPORT FOR THE INITIATIVES OF THE 11TH CONFERENCE  
OF THE THREE INDOCHINESE FOREIGN MINISTERS.

In a meeting on August 18, with the Charge d'Affairs of People's Republic of Kampuchea and Ambassadors of Laos and Vietnam who came to inform of the success of the recent 11th conference of Foreign Ministers of the three Indochinese countries, E.A. Shevardnadze, member of Politburo of the C.P.S.U. Central Committee, Foreign Minister of the U.S.S.R. affirmed that to solve the problem of South East Asia by negotiation was an invariably principled policy of the Soviet Union.

E.A. Shevardnadze fully supported the new important initiatives put forth by the three Indochinese countries, especially the announcement of the decision on the total withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer forces from Kampuchea and the good will proposal to hold dialogue between the Indochinese -- and ASEAN countries to discuss a political solution to the problem of peace, stability in South East Asia and the Kampuchean problem. He also appraised the efforts made by the three countries in creating a climate of confidence, cooperation, and establishing relations of good neighbourliness among the countries of the region on the principles of peaceful coexistence, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, in the interests of the peoples of the region./.

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