

AMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
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**I- GRAND MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF DIEN BIEN PHU VICTORY (May 7, 1954 - May 7, 1984),**

A grand meeting to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Dien Bien Phu Victory was held at the historic Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi on the afternoon of May 7, 1984.

At 3 p.m., the members of the Presidium of the meeting appeared on the rostrum. They included Communist Party General Secretary Le Duan, President of the State Council Truong Chinh, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong, Chairman of the National Assembly Nguyen Huu Tho, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Nguyen Giap, Defence Minister General Van Tien Dung and other Vietnamese Party and State leaders.

In his opening speech, Chairman Pham Van Dong said :

"The Dien Bien Phu Victory resulted from the heroic tradition of building and defending our country which we inherited from our national heroes and heroines, such as the Trung Sisters, Tran Hung Dao, Le Loi and Quang Trung. The Dien Bien Phu Victory led to the collapse of the French colonialist regime and put an end to its century-old domination of Vietnam.

The Dien Bien Phu Victory encouraged the Vietnamese people and renewed their determination to battle on and to win. After more than 20 years of heroic fighting, the Vietnamese people defeated the most powerful imperialism of our time by the heroic Ho Chi Minh campaign, restoring freedom and national independence to Vietnam and quickly reunifying the country and taking it towards socialism.

The Vietnamese people, imbued with the spirit of the Dien Bien Phu Victory are determined to smash all criminal acts of the Beijing expansionists and their collusion with the U.S. imperialists. They are determined to stand by the socialist countries and the peoples of the rest of the world to remove the danger of the nuclear war, to defend peace and the life of all people on earth."

Addressing the meeting, President of the State Council Truong Chinh said :

"They Vietnamese people are celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Dien Bien Phu Victory at the time when they are trying to fulfil two strategic tasks namely to build socialism and to defend our socialist country.

After reviewing the development of the heroic Dien Bien Phu campaign, President Truong Chinh said :

Thirty years have passed. The word Dien Bien Phu has gone down into the nation's history as those of Bang Dang, Chi Lang and Dong Da. Time will never erase the heroic significance of the great victory at Dien Bien Phu. This was the victory of the Vietnamese people over the French colonialists and the U.S. interventionists. It was a prelude to the Vietnamese people's resistance against the U.S. for national Salvation. Dien Bien Phu is forever the great pride of the Vietnamese nation and a source of confidence for all oppressed nations in their struggle for national liberation.

On the present situation in Vietnam, President Truong Chinh said:

"At present, Vietnam's economy is developing and gradually stabilizing, creating conditions for the next steps of development. Numerous difficulties confront Vietnam and its progress overall is as yet uneven. However, with the tradition of Dien Bien Phu and its spirit of self-reliance, the Vietnamese people are determined to overcome all difficulties and to fulfil the 1984 State Plan and to achieve the economic and social targets, thus bringing steady success to the revolutionary cause.

President Truong Chinh reminded all the Vietnamese people that while rebuilding the country they should heighten their vigilance, to frustrate the sabotage war of Beijing reactionaries in collusion with the U.S. imperialists and they should be ready to defeat any war of aggression.

Referring to the world situation, President Truong Chinh condemned the Reagan administration's nuclear arms race and its deployment of nuclear missiles in Western Europe and affirmed that these are the cause of current world tension. He also expressed the Vietnamese people's support for the March 2nd Statement of Soviet leader Mr. Chernenko and reaffirmed Vietnamese solidarity and comprehensive co-operation with the Soviet Union. He criticised President Reagan's recent visit to China and held that this trip was aimed at opposing peace and the safety of the world's people. It was also the continuation of the former visits of Nixon to China and of Deng Xiaoping to the United States of America. This trip marked the progress of Sino-U.S. collusion which started long ago and has become even closer now.

On the situation in the Southeast Asia, President Truong Chinh condemned the Beijing leadership for their aggressive and expansionist policy against Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, and the Thai authorities for their continuing support and incitement of the Pol Pot remnants to oppose the Kampuchean People's revival. He stressed that China's armed provocation and aggressive acts against Vietnam's Northern border provinces in April and early May are aimed at forcing Vietnam to keep perpetually vigilant for the moves of the Beijing expansionists and hegemonists. He reaffirmed that China's strategy and policy towards Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea remain unchanged, save to become even more hostile. Despite the Beijing acts of sabotage and provocation against us, Vietnam is steadily advancing; the Kampuchean revolution is gaining ever

more victories, overcoming step by step every reactionary move so that now the revolution continues to progress. The general situation in the Indochinese peninsula is developing in favour of the revolution and peace in the region. The lesson of the Dien Bien Phu battle is still fresh in the mind of all aggressors and their henchmen .

President Truong Chinh called on the entire Vietnamese people and armed forces to closely united around the Communist Party of Vietnam headed by General Secretary Le Duan, so as to win still bigger successes in the socialist construction and national defence.

The meeting ended with the singing of the song : "Uncle Ho is alive with us on victory day".

CHINESE CONTRIBUTION TO THE DIEN BIEN PHU VICTORY ?

Chinese propaganda has been trumpeting "Chinese contribution" to the Dien Bien Phu historic victory of the Vietnamese people, trying to make believe that it would have been impossible had it not been for Beijing's assistance.

In the 4 March issue of the Nhan Dan newspaper, journalist Thanh Tin supplied a few eloquent figures which gave the lie to those allegations.

Vietnamese archives prove that in the course of our offensive of the spring of 1954, China sent us 1,700 tonnes of rice in all, while the people of the Vietnamese northwest alone contributed 7,000 tonnes of rice as supplies to our troops in Dien Bien Phu. The total amount of rice sent to our troops there being 25,056 tonnes, the Chinese "contribution" represented but one-fifteenth of the food supplied.

As for the weapons and ammunition used in Dien Bien Phu by the Vietnamese troops, they came essentially from the French stocks seized by our troops in the campaign along the Vietnam-China border in late 1950, then in the campaigns of Viet Bac, the Northeast, the Northwest and lastly in Na San and Lai Chau. In Dien Bien Phu the Vietnamese troops fired hundreds of thousands of shells of mortars and heavy guns, while China had sent us a mere 3,600.

Chinese propaganda also lies when it claims that Chinese anti-aircraft guns shot down French planes over Dien Bien Phu. All our anti-aircraft guns at Dien Bien Phu came from Soviet aid, and the gunners in our six battalions of A-A batteries had been trained in the Soviet Union.

II- CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PHAM VAN DONG

INTERVIEWED BY SETHI (NEWSWEEK),

Question : There is an impression being created in the West that Vietnam has merely traded the presence of one superpower for another : the Russians are in your country today much the way the U.S. was in the 60's and early 70's. In fact some analysts are referring to you as a Soviet satellite because of your growing dependence on the Soviet Union. How do you answer such allegations ?

Answer : President Ho Chi Minh once said that "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" and this is a part of the psyche of our nation. For the sake of that freedom and independence, the Vietnamese people have fought repeatedly to resist foreign aggression over the last 2,000 years. Does anyone truly believe that after having paid such an immense price for our freedom in blood, sweat and tears we would hand over that newly won independence to someone else ? It is precisely because we want to preserve that freedom and independence that we have friendly relations with the Soviet Union because the Soviet Union does respect our independence and has extended its hand of friendship to assist us in our defense and development. Everyone needs friends in life, similarly countries need friends too. It is but natural to do so. The Soviet Union is a friend.

Question : But how do you explain the presence of 6,000 Russian advisers in your country and the Soviet TU-16S at Cam Ranh bay, then the Soviet Union recently conducted joint amphibious exercises off your coast. Some in the U.S believe that Da Nang and Cam Ranh bay have become bases for the Soviet Union ?

Answer : Let me assure you that there are no Soviet bases at Da Nang or Cam Ranh bay or anywhere else in my country. Let me also assure you that we would never, I repeat never, grant any country the right to have bases in our country. The facilities we have given the Soviet Union in our airports and harbours is a procedure that any country grants another friendly country. Amphibious exercises are also routine and in line with the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation which we signed with the Soviet Union in 1978. Of course if someone is out to project the dark side of any issue, it is their problem. It doesn't bother me or my people. Vietnam is like a bird in the sky-flying free. It needs its flock for support and assistance but it is always free.

As for the Soviet specialists in our country, they are mostly economic experts. They are helping especially in the construction of major projects like hydro-electric power stations and other large industrial projects. Upon our request, when the need arises, the Soviet government sends specialists to help us within specific limits and for the specific length of time needed. There are other specialists here too ; from socialist as well as non-socialist countries : Sweden, Denmark, France, India, Finland. Why does the United States worry only about the Soviet specialists and conveniently forget the rest ? Is this another example of the double standard ?

Question : Is normalization possible between the United States and Vietnam ? What are your conditions for normalization ?

Answer : There are no other conditions for normalization other than that both sides show eagerness and goodwill. We consider normalization as mutually beneficial. But the process has been hindered by the hostile policies of the U.S. government acting in connivance with Chinese expansionism with a view to weakening Vietnam. When the U.S. feels it necessary to see the benefits of normalization, it will take place. Our door is always open, it is for the United States to pass through the threshold. We are a patient people. We can wait. Eventually the U.S. will come through that door.

Question : How has President Reagan's trip to China and Weinberger's analysis of the importance of U.S. - Chinese - Japanese - Korean ties impacted on your country ? Such projection has totally excluded Vietnam ?

Answer : It is not a good omen. It worries us because it could affect peace and stability in our region. At the same time, we must remember that the U.S. and China are not completely alike. They may sleep in the same bed but they have different dreams, and one day the U.S. will realize that.

Question : One of the major issues which must be resolved between the U.S. and Vietnam is that of the MIA's. The Reagan administration says it cannot exclude the possibility that there are GI's living as prisoners in your jungles to serve as your trump card in the normalization issue. Is an independent international verification process possible to determine that there are no American GI's living in Vietnam ?

Answer : Vietnam considers the question of MIA's to be a humanitarian issue. During the past eleven years Vietnam has returned to the U.S. all living Americans as well as all remains of MIA's and transmitted any relevant information we may have, without any conditions or linkage with normalization . There is no need for independent international verification. I can assure you categorically that there are no living Americans left in Vietnam and anyone who believes so is daydreaming.

First the U.S had a hot war with us, now it carries on a psychological warfare against us using the MIA question.

Question : But what details can you share about the MIA's ? How many are left ? How exactly do you search for them ?

Answer : The US informs us that there are some 2500 MIA's in Vietnam. We are doing our absolute best to find their remains. We have set up a commission which oversees foreign specialists and search squad teams that go out into villages to find out if we can establish the presence of a U.S. MIA there. But there are so many problems. For one, the villagers are not enthusiastic about helping us. Why are you so concerned about the U.S dead when they came in planes to kill us, they say. Why are you so concerned about U.S. MIA's when the U.S continues in its hostile policy towards Vietnam ? Why would we help them, the villagers ask us. Another difficulty is the lack of accurate data as to the whereabouts of the remains, even the sophisticated U.S. computer which documents the MIAs fails to be of help : for example, U.S information given to us listed U.S. paratrooper Dominic Sonsane (airborne division No. 82) as an MIA over Da Nang in 1964 and we found his remains buried in a cemetery of Ho Chi Minh City. But we will continue to do our best despite the many problems. I can assure the American people of that fact. And in May, we will turn over to the U.S government the remains of eight MIA's including that of paratrooper Dominic Sonssane.

Question : What of the fate of the Amerasian children ? How many are there and when can they leave ? There are reports that they are forced to suffer humiliation and discrimination because of their mixed parentage ?

Answer : The Amerasian children like all Vietnamese children are the victims of the U.S war in Vietnam. They are being treated humanely. In the difficult present conditions of our country we are doing our best for them to live as normal a life as all other Vietnamese children. We have about 15,000 Amerasian children in the South. The U.S government can have these children tomorrow if it so wishes. Send a plane in tomorrow we will put them on board so they can leave. You can tell the children by their faces, it is easy to pick them out. But no, the U.S wants documentation. The U.S wants us to detail their parentage. That takes time. And many of these children do not know their father and mother. If the U.S is so concerned about their fate why do they need all this documentation which takes so much time when you can tell the children by their faces ? Because the Amerasian children are being used by the U.S government as a tool against Vietnam. Recently Washington even further slowed down the process by incorporating the Amerasian children into a limited quota system for immigrants of Vietnamese origin, which is also affected as a consequence. By so doing the U.S authorities are dragging the fate of the Amerasian children indefinitely.

Question : How serious is the border situation with China ?

Answer : The situation is getting serious with an increasing number of encroachments and border violations. This is the continuation of the Chinese war of aggression began in February 1979 against the independence of Vietnam. We are prepared to fight and defeat an eventual large scale invasion from China. There is another aspect to the present situation : China's unhappiness over the growing dialogue between Vietnam and ASEAN. General Murdani, Commander-in-Chief of Indonesia's Armed Forces recently visited Vietnam as did former Thai Prime Minister Kriangsak Chornanan, the dialogue was good and China is informing Vietnam and ASEAN in a loud voice that we cannot deal without the Chinese. China also has to lift the sagging morale of the Pol Pot clique and show some support to the Thais after recent successful raids against the Khmer Rouge rebels in Kampuchea. How else to do it but by stirring up trouble on the Sino-Vietnamese border ? On the other hand, could it be pure coincidence that the intensification of Chinese military operations along our border should happen while Reagan was visiting China ?

Question : Do you expect rapprochement with China in the future ? There are numerous reports that you are talking in Bucharest, Romania, at a low-level ?

Answer : The immediate future looks bleak but in the long term anything is possible. I have learned that life is full of surprises. But before anything can happen China will have to drop its support for the Pol Pot clique. We have on many occasions set forth proposals aimed at normalizing relations between our two countries including the proposal to sit down together, no matter where, when and at what level to discuss and settle mutual differences, even to start with limited cultural and economic relations. But the Chinese have not responded. As for the Bucharest story, it is pure myth. Vietnam and China have their respective embassies in Beijing and Hanoi. It is possible for both sides to talk to each other at any time right there. You must remember that there is the weight of past history here, for decades China has had hegemonistic designs on Vietnam : from the time of the ancient Chinese emperors to the present leadership in Beijing.

Question : What is an acceptable solution on Kampuchea for Vietnam ?

Answer : There can be total withdrawal by Vietnam once the Chinese ruling circles stop clinging to the genocidal Pol Pot clique and stop unutilizing Thai territory as a stepping stone to undermine Kampuchea. We are prepared for many alternatives : a comprehensive settlement which rules out all foreign forces and all foreign bases in Southeast Asia.

Failing that, there are a bunch of partial solutions which are possible in the interim :

- 1- A Treaty of Non-aggression and Non-intervention between Indochina and China,
- 2- A Treaty of Non-aggression and Non-intervention between Thailand and Indochina,
- 3- An Agreement between ASEAN and Indochina on a frame-work for peaceful co-existence and peaceful settlement of disputes.

Question : Which solution would be Vietnam's preferred option ?

Answer : Vietnam prefers a comprehensive solution, but it would appear that a partial solution is more realistic. At the same time we are prepared for the worst scenario which is no solution, this means on an annual basis we could withdraw a large part of our forces over a 5-10 year period as the situation stabilizes and the people of Kampuchea are able to stand on their own.

Question : But how can you afford the price ? After all, Vietnam is a poor country. Your per capita income is over US\$100,00 a year, your resources are limited. If you place your emphasis on defense and maintaining an army which is one of the largest in the world, development will suffer badly. Is Kampuchea worth that price ?

Answer : For thirty years Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos have been victims of continuous wars while the world enjoyed the longest peace in this century. We do most cherish peace to rebuild our country. The last two centuries show that peace and security are indivisible for all three countries. Foreigners invading one of these three countries will not spare the other two. China had used Pol Pot to invade Vietnam and to kill millions of Kampuchean people. In Berlin, the Soviet Union, the US and Great Britain had the right to crush Hitler while in Phnom Penh Vietnam is denied the right to crush Pol Pot at the same time saving the Kampuchean people from the genocide of Pol Pot we could not morally and in conscience stand by and watch the Pol Pot clique butcher millions of innocent Kampucheans in cold blood. If you are sitting here and you see your neighbour being clubbed to death, can you stand by and watch ? We also have to keep an eye on our neighbour to the North which has hegemonistic designs on us. So we have to maintain a defense system capable of with-standing this double onslaught. It is a burden imposed on us that we must shoulder even if we are poor with limited resources. Is there any other way ?

Yet, we have attempted to give both development and defense the same priority. And our main objectives on the economic front are to improve agricultural production, increase the availability of consumer goods, improve our energy resources and heavy industrial capability.

Question : Major human rights organisations, and even the U.S State Department Human-rights report, recently documented that some 60,000 Vietnamese are in re-education camps in your country pointing to much human rights abuse. Why do you feel the need for the camps and when will you release all prisoners ?

Answer : Following the liberation of Vietnam in 1975 there was no bloodbath nor a trial of the Nuremberg type. Nor ^{were} there capital punishments in dealing with former collaborators with the enemy as in Europe after the 2nd World War. We carried out a lenient humane policy in keeping with our tradition : there was no violence, instead we placed these mass murderers of the My Lai type and participants in Phoenix operations in re-education camps. As of now most of them have been freed, a small number is left in these camps. But distorted reporting still exaggerates the number of re-education camp inmates. We are quite prepared to allow all of these left in the camps to leave tomorrow for the United States but the U.S. government has rejected that suggestion. They prefer to leave these criminals free in Vietnam but not in the United States.

Question : Will a Sino-Soviet thaw alter Vietnam's relations with the two communist giants ?

Answer : Normalization between any two countries is the affair of the countries concerned. Yet such a thaw may prove to be beneficial to peace and security in Asia and would therefore be welcomed by us. But we do not believe that a change in Sino-Soviet relations can seriously affect Vietnam.

Question : Your country is essentially being run by the older generation right now. Have you made provision that the transition from the old to the new will be a smooth one ?

Answer : We have an old Vietnamese proverb which says that when the bamboo gets old it sprouts young shoots. We have many young shoots but there is no system of an heir apparent here. Things will evolve in due course. In our long struggle for independence and our journey towards development, generation a has succeeded generation in a smooth transition. I feel confident and optimistic that this historical fact will hold true in the future too./.

III- VIETNAM AND CHINA,

- Vietnamese Foreign Ministry Condemns China's Intensified Armed Provocation ;

Following repeated artillery bombardments, intrusions and land-nibbling attacks against Vietnam's Northern border provinces since early April, on April 28-29, the Chinese rulers mobilized three regiments of the 40th division, 14th army corps, Kunming military region, to launch land - grabbing attacks on mounts 1509 and 772 and hill 233 in Vi Xuyen district, Ha Tuyen province. To cover up their war crimes and their continued occupation of many places inside Vietnam's territory, the Beijing authorities have rehashed their slanderous allegation that "Vietnam has made armed provocations along the Sino-Vietnamese border" and concocted the story that "Vietnam built fortifications and military positions on Chinese territory".

This serious act of war escalation of the Chinese rulers has violated Vietnam's security in border areas with a view to weakening and eventually subjugating Vietnam, first of all, coordinating their actions with the Thai authorities to save the genocidal Pol Pot gang and its associates, who are being punished by the Kampuchean people and their armed forces along the Kampuchea-Thailand border, and sabotaging the ASEAN countries' trend for developing friendly relations and cooperation with Vietnam.

This new criminal act of the Chinese authorities, which took place at a time when they were welcoming the U.S President's current visit to China, has revealed all the more clearly the dark scheme of the reactionary forces within the Chinese leadership to further increase their collusion with the U.S imperialists to oppose the Soviet Union and the three Indochinese countries, and undermine peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The people, and armed forces in Vietnam's Northern border provinces, always vigilant and combat-ready, have promptly dealt smart punishing blows at Chinese troops when they engaged in armed provocations and land-grabbing attacks, wiping out many of them and capturing a number of intruders.

The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry strongly condemns and denounces to the world public and the Chinese people these new crimes perpetrated by the Beijing rulers. It firmly demands that China stop at once all its acts of war escalation land-nibbling attacks and all other hostile acts against the Vietnamese people, acts detrimental to the interests of the Chinese people and of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The Chinese authorities must bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising from their brazen acts of war.

Hanoi, April 30, 1984.

- S.R.V. Defence Ministry Communique,

At a Press Conference on the situation along the Sino-Vietnamese border, held by Foreign Ministry in Hanoi on May 3rd, 1984, Colonel Nguyen Van Thai, representative of the Defense Ministry made known to the public the Communique of the SRV Defence Ministry :

"Despite their bitter defeats, after their war of aggression launched in February 1979 against Vietnam, the Chinese government does not give up their ambition of annexing Vietnam.

Parallel to their evil attempt to weaken Vietnam by a multifaceted war of sabotage, the Chinese reactionaries constantly attack Vietnam on two fronts (South-West and North) with a view to annex Vietnam and turn it into a step-stone to South East Asia.

In May 1981, the Chinese troops occupied by force hill 400 in Cao Loc district, Lang son province, mounts 1 000 and 1 800 in Vi Xuyen district, Ha Tuyen province of Vietnam.

Since 2 April 1984, Chinese batteries fired thousands of cannon and mortar shells on more than 100 places in 26 out of districts of 6 Vietnamese Northern provinces from Lai Chau to Quang Ninh,

On 2 and 3 April, Chinese artillery units fired more than 6 000 shells on 50 places inside Vietnamese territory, and on 16 and 17 April nearly 10 000 more on 40 places of Vietnam.

From 28 April to 1 May, tens of thousands of Chinese shells were fallen onto several areas of Vi Xuyen, Thanh Thuy and Yen Minh districts, Ha Tuyen province. The majority of places under the artillery-fire were houses, public buildings, agricultural stores and other production bases. Some places were situated ten kilometers from the frontier. These bombardments caused great losses in human lives and property to the Vietnamese populations.

The Beijing reactionaries also utilized spies and commandoes to lay mines in some areas in Vietnam.

Yet worse still, Chinese infantry tried to attack some Vietnamese heights :

- On April 6th, after firing thousands of artillery shellings, Chinese battalions attacked at heights 829 and 636 in Quoc Khanh-village, Trang Dinh district, Lang Son province. The Vietnamese armed forces and militias put out of action many of Chinese intruders.

- Even more serious : from April 28 to May 1, after firing more than ten thousands of artillery shells, forces of the 14th army corps and independent divisions belonging to the Kunming military region attacked at heights 1545, 1549, 772 233 and the areas of hill 1250 in Ha Tuyen province. The local armed forces of Vietnam put out of action or captured many Chinese aggressors.

These are very grave acts of war escalation launched by the reactionaries in Beijing leadership against Vietnam.

After the war of aggression in February 1979, China maintains a permanent tension, undertakes armed provocations, espionage-sabotage, encroachments and incursions into Vietnamese territory, but the raids in recent days were unprecedently grave. They concentrated big forces comprising many army corps, divisions and a number of artillery units of the Kunming military region.

By these acts of war, the Chinese authorities exposed their real bellicose and reactionary nature. In accordance with international law, they are condemned by world opinion for openly violating the territorial sovereignty of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, sabotaging security and peaceful labour of the Vietnamese people.

These crimes committed by the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists against the Vietnamese people will be strongly condemned by progressive mankind".

The newsmen also personally witnessed the two Chinese prisoners captured when carrying out land-nibbling attacks into Vietnamese territory on April 28th, 1984.

The two Chinese prisoners identified as :

1- Bach Tri Lee, 20 years old, of 1st Company, 1st Battalion, 120th Regiment, 40th Division, 14th Army Corps of Kunming Military Region, was captured on April 28th, 1984 on south western hill 1509, about 600 metres deep inside Vietnamese territory in Vi Xuyen district, Ha Tuyen province.

2- Uong Ban, 27 years old, deputy-political officer of 2nd Company, 1st Battalion, 118th Regiment, 40th Division, 14th Army Corps of Kunming Military Region, was captured on April 28th, 1984 on hill 1509, about 500 metres deep inside Vietnamese territory in Vi Xuyen district, Ha Tuyen province.

Both Chinese prisoners have admitted that they were captured inside Vietnamese territory. Uong has also admitted that until April 28th, 1984 (the date he was captured) there were about 70 soldiers of his Company had been injured and that their aggressive attacks were also aimed at supporting the Pol Pot remnants. Answering the question put forth by the international newsmen on the Vietnamese treatment, they said : we are mercifully treated by the Vietnamese".

- Latest News

VNA - May 19, 1984.

- From April 2nd to May 18th, 1984, China had fired more than 120,000 artillery shells on all the populated and economic areas in six northern border provinces of Vietnam.

At the same time, five army corps of Kunming and Kuang Si military regions had been deployed along the border. Some of those army corps crossed the border and attacked a number of mounts and hills in Ha Tuyen and Lang Son provinces, the deepest was 1 kilometre from the border.

- Chinese invaders were duly punished. More than 5,000 Chinese soldiers were put out of action, many other taken prisoners.

Vietnamese artillery also destroyed 34 Chinese artillery bases, 5 ammunition camps and a number of Chinese field-headquarters as well as base camps.

- The Sino-Vietnamese border still remains in a very tense situation, particularly in Yen Minh and Vi Xuyen districts, Ha Tuyen province and in Trang Dinh district, Lang Son province.

- Chinese Fishmen in Distress were Saved and Returned to China.

On December 6th, 1983, a Vietnamese fishing-boat, while fishing in Quang Nam-Da Nang Province's territorial water discovered a Chinese fishing-boat which named "Xuong Giang 3010" with 8 fishmen. They said the engine of their leaking boat was broken down, they were run out of food and asked for help.

The Vietnamese fishing-boat rescued them and handed over to the local administration. They were given medical care. At present, their health are restored and they ask the Vietnamese government to give them permission to return to China.

Stemming from the humanitarian policy and the friendship between Vietnamese and Chinese peoples, on the afternoon of April 20th, 1984, a representative of the Consular Department of the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam informed the Chinese side of the decision to hand over the above fishmen in the second half of April, 1984 so that they can return home to reunify with their families.

- On President Reagan's Visit to China :

Reactionary Strategy and Policy of China :

On 26 and 27 April, the paper "Nhan Dan" carried a commentary entitled "The unchanged reactionary strategy and policy of China" and called the relations

between the United States and China the "marriage of convenience".

To understand the policy of China in the present international political context, underlined the paper, one must scrutinize in depth a series of words and acts of the Chinese authorities to discern clearly their aim and position : On the imperialist front or among the anti-imperialist ranks, Are they on the side of the counter-revolutionaries who oppose the three Indochinese countries or on the side of revolutionaries who support the three Indochinese countries ?

The crux of the strategy of Peking is the policy of opposing the Soviet Union and the socialist community, the unchanged objective of which is the collusion with the American imperialists and the Japanese militarists, the realization of Great Han expansionist-hegemonist aims, gravely threatening the security and stability in Asia and peace in the world.

Precisely, the visit to China of the American President at this moment reflects itself the nature, the manoeuvres and the present objective of the Chinese authorities. The U.S leaders are very fond of the dark designs of the Chinese authorities. The basis of the Sino-American relations, as noted Zhao Ziyang has been deeply rooted : The Americans see that the statements of China on the question of Taiwan before Reagan's arrival in Peking is nothing but a moderate repetition for internal use. Deng Xiaoping declared that the conclusion of the Sino-Japanese treaty needed only one second, the normalization of Sino-American relations needed only two seconds ! To consider the words and acts of the Deng clique and those of Mao's period will give a better understanding of the reactionary strategy and policy of China.

The normalization of Sino-Soviet relations was far from proving the so-called "Policy of equidistance between the U.S.S.R and the United States" as often repeated Peking, and far from the so-called goodwill of China towards the socialist countries.

Reagan has placed the development of all U.S.-Chinese economic and military relations under the anti-Soviet etiquette. He said for the first time in Honolulu : "The United States and China coordinate their efforts in a main cause to build a dynamic economy and struggle for peace against hegemonism (it means against the U.S.S.R). This is all the significance of my visit to China. I will tell the Chinese authorities the intention of the U.S.A to cooperate with China in her ambitious programme of modernisation. The American-Chinese relations at present are excellent, I believe that they can be and will be even better".

In order to receive American help for their modernisation, China paid the price by turning herself into a junior partner against the Soviet Union, Vietnam, the Socialist community, the movement for national independence and all revolutionary forces over the world. Before the arrival of Reagan to Peking, China forced the Pol Pot

clique to commit crimes against Kampuchean people. And she, herself pounded heavy artillery shells on 6 Northern border provinces of Vietnam, conducted incursions into Vietnamese territory and caused heavy damages and casualties against the Vietnamese innocent people. Those acts, were considered as gifts to Reagan when he visited China, and aimed at showing Chinese "deeds" before the American imperialists.

The American imperialists want to bind China to their Pacific strategy in order to realize their world reactionary strategy. In fact, the Peking reactionaries placed China on the band wagon of the United States. The problem is to haggle over the price of the speed with which China will run, and to cover up the odious face of a dependent partner with the United States before the world's people.

The paper said in conclusion:

"The Vietnamese people treasure the time-honoured friendship with the Chinese people. More than anyone else, they desire a real change in the Chinese mind in order to restore the normal relations between Vietnam and China.

But the reactionary policy and strategy of Peking remain unchanged, they become even more rachiavellian. This is proved in Reagan's visit to China, after a series of trips : Reagan's tour to Japan and South Korea, Ho Yac Bang's visit to Japan, Zhao Ziyang to the U.S., and Nakasone to China. All these visit are not fortuitous. Reagan's visit shows that the reactionary collusion between the U.S and China is now in all fields, economic, military, political, scientific and technical. It marks a new stage of extremely dangerous development. The visit aims at attaching China to the Washington-Tokyo-Seoul axis, to the adventurous and aggressive policy in Asia. The Sino-American collusion opposes not only to the interests of the Soviet Union, the three Indochinese countries and other socialist countries, but also to the interests of many countries in South East Asia and the rest of Asia, as well as to peace and stability over the world and to the interests of the Chinese people themselves.

In welcoming ostentatiously Reagan, Peking gives to extremely reactionary and tricky Reagan an opportunity to gain votes in the coming U.S presidential election, and engaged in tying itself to band-wagon of American imperialism in the crusade against the socialist community and world revolutionary movement.

Reagan's Recent Trip to China :

Peking and Washington have met each other on a counter-revolutionary platform concerning the principle problems related to the objectives of the epoch, stressed the Nhan Dan Newspaper in a commentary of 3 May 1984 on President Reagan's visit to China.

The outstanding act was that the White House boss affirmed that Washington and Peking conceived a friendship to counter the Soviet Union and to safeguard "peace and security" in the Pacific area and in the world. He declared that the sales of arms were aimed at putting pressure upon the Soviet Union directly or indirectly. Meanwhile, the American and Chinese parties have reached agreement on such questions as to cope with the U.S.S.R., to oppose Vietnam, Kampuchea and Afghanistan, and on the Korea question... One may ask whether this accord will become a strategic operation?

The second act in which Reagan played in China was an ostentatious propaganda for capitalism and the American way of life, tying step by step China to the mechanism of the capitalist market, realizing capitalism on the soil of China who claims to be socialist. As for the Chinese authorities they were so double-dealing in saying that they do not want to make public anything which the American President had to say that offends a third country. It is themselves who have not ceased accusing slanderously Vietnam of "invading China", while they welcome Reagan and saluted him with frantic acts--attacks along the Sino-Vietnamese border in a scale and with the intensity which were unprecedented since their defeat in the aggression against Vietnam in February 1979. The Chinese rulers put on the alert all regions adjacent to Vietnam.

UPI quoted a Western diplomatic source which said that it would not be surprised if the Chinese side decided to escalate hostilities after Reagan's recent visit. Before, the Sino-Vietnamese border war had been intensified a week following Deng Xiao-ping's visit to the United States.

By these designs, Peking affirmed its hostile policy towards Vietnam and the continuing of its many-sided war of sabotage against the latter. The Chinese authorities themselves showed where the threat to peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the Pacific region comes from. Besides the American imperialism, the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists constitute an extremely dangerous threat to peace and revolution. The Peking-Washington collusion is the convergence of the two most reactionary forces in our epoch. Their ambition is unbounded. Reagan declared that his trip would be memorable until a thousand years to come. This is another proof of the perfidious manoeuvres of American and Chinese authorities in an attempt to oppose peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

IV- VIETNAM - KAMPUCHEA,

- Vietnamese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Rejects ASEAN Slander,

On April 19, 1984, an ASEAN Statement alleged that Vietnamese army volunteers in Kampuchea had attacked civilians in refugee camps along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

This is a mere repeat of the Bangkok and Beijing authorities' hackneyed slanders. The fact is that those who have most vociferously accused Vietnam of attacking civilians are those who have been giving the strong support and backing to the Pol Pot gang and their accomplices in their acts of banditry, in killing civilians, destroying crops and sabotaging the Kampuchean people's revival.

Early this year, when the Pol Pot gang committed crimes against the Kampuchean people, the Thai and Chinese authorities floated over and blared out their imaginary "Victories" with the aim of heightening their prestige. But recently, when the Kampuchean people's armed forces and Vietnamese army volunteers duly punished the genocidal Pol Pot gang and their accomplices in Kampuchean territory, the Thai and Chinese authorities raised hue and cry, falsely accusing Vietnam of violation Thai territory and attacking civilians. It is public knowledge that while punishing the Pol Pot remnants, the Kampuchean people's armed forces and Vietnamese army volunteers have fully respected Thailand's territory and sovereignty. Recent statements by General Arthit Karlang-ek concerning a Thai air force A-37 jet bombing a Polpotist ammunition dump and by the Thai National Security Council Secretary General denying a report on the occupation of hill 483 inside Thailand by Vietnamese troops have proved that the Kampuchean People's Armed Forces and Vietnamese Army volunteers did not attack civilian targets or violate Thai territory. On the contrary, the Thai authorities have directly involved Thai artillery, air and infantry forces in military operations along the Thai-Kampuchean border in support of the Pol Pot remnants.

Refugee camps along the Thai-Kampuchean border are but a screen hiding the Thai authorities' collusion with China and the United States in letting the Pol Pot gang and their accomplices use Thai territory for their commanding and training base from where they launch criminal activities against the Kampuchean people. For the People's Republic of Kampuchea, to punish and retaliate against the Pol Pot gang and their accomplices for their sabotage activities is a legitimate right of any sovereign state.

If the Thai authorities really want peace and stability along the Kampuchean-Thai border, why did they turn down the Indochinese countries' proposals for seeking measures to ensure equal security for both sides, under international control?

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam flatly rejects the Thai and Chinese authorities' slanders. The SRV government demands that

the Thai government immediately end all its acts of war in support of the genocidal Pol Pot clique against the Kampuchean people's revival, otherwise they will have to bear full responsibility for their actions.

Hanoi, April 20, 1984.

- Foreign Ministry Spokesman's Statement on
ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Conference,

On May 8, 1984, the Conference of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers issued a statement taking up Thailand's and China's slanderous allegations against Vietnam.

It is public knowledge that over the past few years the Chinese ruling circles have, in collusion with the U.S. imperialists, sought every way and means to bring the genocidal Pol Pot clique back to power to oppose the Kampuchean people's revival. The Thai authorities have lent a hand to Beijing, giving "sanctuaries" to the genocidal Pol Pot gang and other Khmer reactionaries, using Kampuchean refugees as hostages and refugees' camps as shields for their activities against the People's Republic of Kampuchea and undermining security along the Thai-Kampuchean border. Thailand has directly supported the Pol Pot remnants in their repeated incursions into Kampuchea, and conducted bombing and shellings on many areas of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, committing many crimes against the Kampuchean people.

As everyone knows, while joining the army and people of Kampuchea in meting out due punishment to the genocidal Pol Pot clique, the Vietnamese volunteers have always respected Thailand's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and have never attacked the civilian population. The statements made by Thai authorities on the situation on the Kampuchea-Thai border are a total fabrication full of self-contradictions which raised doubts among world public, the ASEAN countries and even within Thailand itself. It is obvious that the authorities in China and Thailand themselves are the authors of tense situation and they have to bear full responsibility for it before the people in Southeast Asia and the world over.

Vietnam has times and again, made it clear that the Vietnamese volunteers will completely withdraw from Kampuchea after the Pol Pot remnants and their accomplices have been eliminated and the security of the People's Republic of Kampuchea has been guaranteed. Never will Vietnam unilaterally withdraw its troops from Kampuchea because this would allow the authorities in China and Thailand to freely bring the genocidal Pol Pot clique and their accomplices back to Kampuchea.

If Thailand really wants peace and stability in the Kampuchean-Thai border region, it should, together with the Indochinese countries consider immediately all proposals for solving the following burning issues : to ensure peace and stability for both sides along the Kampuchean-Thai border to move refugee camps along the Thai-Kampuchean border out of the hostility areas and to organize voluntary repatriation for Kampuchean refugees in accordance with the agreement of the parties concerned.

It is very regrettable that so far the ASEAN countries have refused to consider , on the basis of equality and mutual respect, the proposals of the parties concerned for peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the Kampuchean issue. They still persist in urging the Indochinese countries to accept their proposal. This is unacceptable.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam welcomes the ASEAN countries' desire to continue dialogue. For its part, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam reaffirms the position of the three Indochinese countries that they are ready to resolve through dialogue all problems concerning peace and stability in Southeast Asia on the basis of considering the proposals of all parties concerned.

Fanoi, 11th May 1984.

- Vietnamese Ambassador in Thailand Receives Two Thai Deputies,

On April 4th, Mr. Tran Quang Co, Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand received, on their request, Mr. Paitoon Cruazao and Mr. Verakonn Khumpracob, secretary and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee respectively of the House of Representatives of Thailand.

The Vietnamese Ambassador informed them of the reality of the hostilities which took place recently at the Kampuchean border. He denounced the slanders of the Thai authorities and condemned them for having assisted the Pol Pot clique to violate the territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Mr. Paitoon twice expressed his excuses for the careless statements of Mr. Verakonn and pledged that his committee will urge the Thai Government to enter into dialogue with Vietnam.

- Kampuchean Foreign Minister Calls in Hanoi.

On the way home following his visit to Africa, Hun Sen, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Kampuchea had talks on 11 April with his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Co Thach.

Minister Nguyen Co Thach welcomed and highly appreciated the successes of Mr. Hun Sen's visit to 7 African countries. These successes demonstrate the solid revival of the People's Republic of Kampuchea which pursues a policy of peace and goodwill and enhances its prestige in the international arena. Public opinion in these 7 countries and men of conscience concern the crimes committed by Pol Pot genocidal clique who opposes the revival of the Kampuchean people and provokes confrontations in South East Asia. It is a general demand that Pol Pot and its accomplices be eliminated with a view to assure peace for the Kampuchean people and restore peace and stability in South East Asia.

Minister Hun Sen highly valued the success of the recent visit of Mr. Nguyen Co Thach to Indonesia and Australia and agreed on the content of the talks and the understanding obtained by this visit. He considered it Vietnam's great contribution to the restoration of peace and stability in South East Asia.

The two Ministers strongly condemned the recent acts of war by the Thai authorities who nurtured the Pol Pot remnants and violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. They held that these acts of the Thai authorities as well as recent Chinese violations of Vietnamese territory obviously sabotage the tendency to dialogue in the region and make the situation complicated. The Thai authorities and Peking leaders must hold responsibility of this tense situation, and bear all consequences arising from their acts.

- Welcomes New Success of Kampuchea's Just Cause,

"Nhan Dan" on April 12th hails the fine results of Kampuchean Foreign Minister Hun Sen's recent visits to some African countries.

The Paper writes :

"Minister Hun Sen was warmly received by the governments and peoples of the countries he visited. He held talks with leaders of those countries on bilateral, regional and world issues. The governments of those countries

highly valued the achievements recorded in all fields by the Kampuchean people over the past five years. They severely condemned the genocidal Pol Pot regime, affirmed their support for the People's Republic of Kampuchea and agreed to broaden their relationship with this nascent republic in Indochina. On the situation in Southeast Asia, leaders of those African countries unanimously agreed with Minister Hun Sen that efforts should be made for an overall and lasting solution to the problems in the region and stressed that the resolution on Southeast Asia adopted at the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit is an important basis for solving the problems in this region.

Through Minister Hun Sen's visit to African countries, Cape Verde, Benin and Guinea-Bissau declared their decision to establish diplomatic relations at Ambassadorial level with the People's Republic of Kampuchea, and Ghana pledged to recognize Kampuchea in the near future. So, only five years after its liberation from genocide, the People's Republic of Kampuchea has been officially recognized by nearly forty countries and international organizations!

The Paper goes on :

"These are new and great successes of the just, heroic and indomitable struggle of a nation desirous to regain their right to live in independence, freedom and peace with the close solidarity of the fraternal Vietnamese and Lao peoples and with the support of the socialist community and peace and justice-loving mankind. On the contrary, they are heavy blows dealt at the reactionary circle in Beijing and their accomplices who are trying to prevent and sabotage the revival of Kampuchea. Those successes contribute to breaking the blockade set up by the Chinese expansionists, the U.S imperialists and other reactionary forces against Kampuchea. Sooner or later other countries in the world will acknowledge the eloquent truth about the revival of the Kampuchean people and their efforts to live in independence and with human dignity".

The Paper remarks :

"In addition to Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach's visit to Indonesia and Australia, the results of the Foreign Minister Hun Sen's visit to African countries have brought out this truth : The Kampuchean, Vietnamese and Lao peoples really want to improve their relations with neighbouring countries and have made constructive efforts to continue and broaden dialogues and contacts with a view to gradually bringing about peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The genocidal Pol Pot clique, Beijing's main tool to oppose the revival of Kampuchea, and Vietnam and Laos, must be abolished. It is

necessary to stop nurturing the Polpotists and stop their use of Thai territory to commit crimes against the Kampuchean people and the Indochinese peoples in general. This is the primary key point for a solution to the present urgent problems in the region. This is also an active step to the improvement of the relations between China and the three Indochinese countries, between Thailand and ASEAN as a whole and the three Indochinese countries. The Chinese expansionists and their accomplices are frenziedly perpetrating new crimes against the Vietnamese and Kampuchean peoples, they have received well-deserved retaliatory blows. The people in the region and the whole progressive mankind are severely condemning their adventurous acts and rejecting all their slanders against Vietnam. Their "thief crying stop thief" tricks cannot blur the just stance and goodwill for peace of the Kampuchean, Lao and Vietnamese peoples. Justice and peace will win./.

- Andrei Gromyko Receives Hun Sen,

According to TASS, on April 9, 81 - Andrei Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and Soviet Foreign Minister, today had a meeting with Hun Sen, member of the Political Bureau of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, who is in Moscow on a brief working visit.

The Soviet Foreign Minister praised the constructive line of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic of establishing an atmosphere of confidence, good-neighbourliness and equal co-operation in South East Asia. The Soviet Union, Andrei Gromyko stressed, feels solidarity with the constructive course of Kampuchea, Vietnam and Laos of settling the region's outstanding problems through negotiation and will consistently support their efforts in this field.

Andrei Gromyko and Hun Sen expressed satisfaction over the progressive development of co-operation between the USSR and the PRK, and reiterated their determination to continue to consolidate the Soviet-Kampuchean friendship for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries, in the name of peace and social progress.

- The Kampuchean People Defend Firmly their Revolutionary Achievements,

"The achievements recorded by the People's Republic of Kampuchea in all fields of social and economic development, speaking eloquently the solidarity of the people's power, are linked to the fraternal assistance, cooperation of the Soviet Union, Vietnam and other socialist countries", declared Hun Sen, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea.

- Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister of the P.R.K in an Interview with a TASS Correspondent,

On the relations between the Soviet Union and Kampuchea, Minister Hun Sen said : "We are profoundly satisfied with the progress of the cooperation between the USSR and the PRK and we are determined to continue to strengthen the Soviet-Kampuchean friendship in the interests of the peoples of the two countries, for peace and social progress".

On his recent visits to seven African countries, Minister Hun Sen said : "Everywhere we found warm and sincere welcome, proving the support of the African peoples to the just struggle of the Kampuchean people".

Minister Hun Sen categorically rejected the recent slanders of the imperialists and international reactionaries against the three Indochinese countries and their claims about the imaginary "victories" of the Pol Pot remnants, "The Kampuchean people and their revolutionary army, have defended and are defending firmly the achievements of the revolution, the independence, territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Kampuchea".

- Hun Sen's Interview With Novosti :

"The Elimination of Pol Pot is Necessary",

In an interview with Soviet Agency "Novosti" on his recent visits to seven African countries, Mr. Hun Sen, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Kampuchea declared the visit is a diplomatic success of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Asked about the declaration of Minister Nguyen Co Thach during his visits to Indonesia and Australia that "the elimination of the Pol Pot clique is a pressing demand", Hun Sen remarked : "

"The declaration of Minister Nguyen Co Thach shows the position of the Indochinese countries and correctly reflects the real situation in the region at present. It is true that to assure a lasting peace, there is the need of

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a global solution for the problem of South East Asia on the basis of withdrawal of all foreign forces from South East Asia and an end to interference conducted by imperialists and foreign reactionaries in conformity with the resolution of the Seventh Summit of Non-Aligned Conference. Meanwhile, we hold that the concrete measures to reach this solution are the elimination of Pol Pot and his accomplices, and the cessation of utilizing Thai territory as a base against the People's Republic of Kampuchea. This is the key for a solution to the Kampuchean question, and to the re-establishment of peace in the region as well as in Kampuchea.

On the internal affairs of Kampuchea, Hun Sen declared :

"We reaffirm that the door of the People's Republic of Kampuchea always opens wide for those who leave the Pol Pot ranks and respect the constitution of the People's Republic of Kampuchea".

On the matter of accounting for the information of Americans missing in action during the war in Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos, provided in the Joint Communiqué of the Foreign Ministers' Conference of the three Indochinese countries in Vientiane in January 1984, Minister Hun Sen said that the People's Republic of Kampuchea always paid attention to this subject because "we hold that this is a humanitarian question and that the missing American soldiers are only victims of the imperialist and aggressive policy carried out by the American administrations".

V- OTHER NEWS,

- Greeting Message to Ireland-Vietnam, Kampuchea, Laos Friendship Association,

On the occasion of the setting up of the Ireland-Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos Association in Dublin on April 2nd 1984, the Vietnam Solidarity Friendship Committee sent to the Association a greeting message. The full text of the message is as follows :

"Vietnamese people deeply impressed by your setting up in Dublin Ireland-Vietnam Kampuchea Laos Association. Your efforts really mark new step in existing friendly relations between Irish and Indochinese peoples. On behalf of Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship with people all countries, extend you warmest congratulations and greetings. Here enjoy your cooperation in common cause for peace and friendship and wish you every success in your noble activities".

- N.P. Tolubiev, Vice-Chairman of the External Relations
Economic Liaison Committee of the Soviet Union Visits Vietnam,

At the invitation of the Vietnamese government, comrade N.P. Tolubiev, Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Vice-Chairman of the External Relations Economic Liaison Committee of the Soviet Union and Vice-Chairman of the USSR section in the Joint Inter-governmental Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technological Co-operations between Vietnam and the USSR, had visited Vietnam, and held talks with Tran Quynh, Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Le Khac, Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and Foreign Trade Minister.

An Agreement on the construction of a Space Telecommunication Earth Station within the Inter-Sputnik System and exchanged letters on the construction of an anti-biotic medicine factory in Vietnam were signed on this occasion.

N.P. Tolubiev has also visited a number of Vietnam-USSR cooperation projects on energy, electricity, coal, oil and gas and had several meetings with heads of state organs, leading cadres of the visited projects.

- Vietnamese Support for Joint Cuban-Angolan Statement,

Chairman of the Council of Ministers Phan Van Dong recently received Faure Orono Mediavilla, Cuban Ambassador to Vietnam.

The Cuban Diplomat informed the Vietnamese leader of the Joint Statement between the Cuban government and the Angolan government during the recent visit to Cuba of President of the People's Republic of Angola, Jose Eduardo Dos Santos.

Chairman Phan Van Dong considered legitimate the conditions put forward by Cuba and Angola in this Statement regarding gradual withdrawal of Cuban troops on international mission in Angola. The question of withdrawal of Cuban troops belongs to the sovereignty of Angola and Cuba and only concerns these two countries.

Chairman Phan Van Dong underlined the importance of the joint statement in the present context of Southern Africa, considered it as a positive contribution to the struggle of the peoples in Southern Africa against Apartheid supported by U.S. imperialism.

The Vietnamese leader highly appreciated the disinterested, considerable and precious support and assistance of the Cuban Party, Government, people

and armed forces given to the Angolan Revolution and to Africa in general.

He reaffirmed the combatant solidarity and the total support of the Vietnamese people for the courageous struggle of the heroic Angolan people for the defense of her independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and for the construction of a prosperous country, as well as for the just and victorious struggle against the barbarous apartheid South Africa regime of the Namibian and South African peoples under the leadership of their respective sole legitimate representatives : S.V.A.P.O and A.N.C.

- Delegation of the Nicaraguan Society of Friendship with The Socialist Countries Visits Vietnam,

At the invitation of the Vietnam Solidarity and Friendship Committee, a Nicaraguan delegation of the Society of Friendship with the Socialist countries headed by Vice-Chairman Alejandro Solisano recently visited Vietnam.

Chu Huy Man, Political Bureau Member of the Communist Party of Vietnam received the delegation and reaffirmed that in the past as well as in the future the Vietnamese people always stand side by side with the Nicaraguan people, resolutely support the just struggle of the Nicaraguan people and firmly believe that the Nicaraguan people under the correct leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front will foil all hostile acts of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen, and successfully defend their beloved homeland.

A grand meeting was held to welcome the delegation and to support the Nicaraguan revolutionary struggle.

At a Press Conference on the current situation of Nicaragua to foreign and Vietnamese newsmen, Vice-Chairman Alejandro Solisano expressed his sincere thanks to the Communist Party, government and people of Vietnam for their strong support to the Nicaraguan struggle and thanked the Vietnamese people for their warm and fraternal welcome.

- Vietnam's Senior Military Delegation on a Visit to India,

A high-ranking military delegation headed by General Le Trong Tan, Deputy Defence Minister and Vietnam's People Army, General/Chief-of-Staff paid a friendly visit to the Republic of India at the invitation of the Defence Ministry and the General Chief of Staff of the Indian Armed Forces.

The delegation was received by President Zail Singh. The Indian

President praised the Vietnamese people's heroic struggles for national independence and freedom in the past as well as at present set up a symbol example for other peoples in the world. He also expressed his desire for further strengthening the co-operation between Vietnam and India. The two countries, he said, shared common views on international issues and struggled for the common cause of peace and independence of all nations.

The delegation also paid a courtesy visits to India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, Defence Minister R. Venkataratan and the Chiefs-of-Staff of India's Army and Air Force.

- Foreign Ministry Spokesman's Statement on Amerasian Children Issue,

"On April 20, a spokesman of the U.S State Department said that in spite of Vietnam's repeated commitment, it has failed to hand the list of Amerasian children in Vietnam over to the U.S side and prevented these children and their families to leave Vietnam.

This is but a familiar slander of the U.S side to use humanitarian issues to oppose Vietnam.

It is public knowledge that since 1979, Vietnam, the office of the U.N High Commissioner for Refugees and recipient recipient countries, including the United States, have coordinated their actions effectively carrying out the orderly departure programme.

With regard to the Amerasian children issue, Vietnam regards it as a consequence of the U.S war and a humanitarian issue which the United States has the responsibility to settle in the framework of an agreement with Vietnam. This issue does not lie in the orderly departure programme of the UNHCR. Up to now, however, the U.S side has shirked its responsibility and sought to bring the Amerasian children issue into the orderly departure programme. In so doing, the United States has caused difficulties not only to the acceptance of the Amerasian children but also to the realization of the orderly departure programme.

Consequently, the number of Amerasian children already accepted by the United States is a minimal part compared with the list given by Vietnam to the United States. The number of people accepted by the United States under the orderly programme is also limited. The Vietnamese side holds that the United States must promptly receive all the Amerasian children registered in the list already given it by the Vietnamese side and that it must not

shirk its responsibility by passing this issue to the UNHCR.

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam rejects the above-said slanderous charge of the United States. Should the U.S. government continue raising obstacles to the execution of the programme for orderly departures as well as the acceptance of Amerasian children it would bear full responsibility for the delay in settling these two issues".

Hanoi, 22 April 1984.

- Press Begged for American Assistance,

Public opinion cannot neglect the visit of Thai Prime Minister to the United States to buy the modern fighters F.16. This is the evidence of the closer link of Thailand to the orbit of the U.S. reactionary strategy, said Parer Man Dan.

This visit takes place at the moment when the Thai authorities coordinates their activities with Beijing to oppose the rebirth of the Kampuchean people.

Thailand let the U.S. use the naval and air bases : UTAPAO, DON MUONG, KCRAT, SATTAH and UDORN and plays the role of "front-line state" to oppose the revolution of the three Indochinese countries as China and the United States wanted.

At present, Thai planes regularly violated the air space of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, bombing Kampuchean territory. Definitely the Thai Administration is bent on "modernizing" her hostile policy against the three Indochinese countries, underlined the commentary.