

SUPPLEMENT

S T A T E M E N T

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REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO THE FORTIETH SESSION  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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Mr. President,

The Delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam would like, at the very outset, to congratulate you most cordially and to wish you best success in your guidance of this historic session of the General Assembly.

Mr. President, permit me to express to the Government and people of Mexico the profound sympathy and sincere condolences of the Government and people of Vietnam over the heavy losses caused by the recent earthquake. We are convinced that with their undaunted will and with the assistance of the international community, the Mexican people will soon be able to overcome this severe trial.

Today we are offered the opportunity to look back at the four decades of activities of the United Nations and to identify the crucial problems which call for common efforts by the entire international community.

Forty million men, of whom twenty million were sons of the heroic Soviet people laid down their lives for mankind's great victory ending the Second World War and leading to the creation of the United Nations, this largest and most important of international organizations. Since then, millions of others have sacrificed their lives to quench the flames of war kindled by imperialism throughout the world, and to wrest back independence and freedom and achieve social progress. Enormous human and material resources have been expended in order to break the nuclear monopoly of imperialism and to achieve a military-strategic equilibrium, thus enabling mankind to enjoy the longest period without a world war in this century. These significant achievements, realized at the cost of priceless sacrifices, serve as the basis for and foster the adoption of numerous positive resolutions at the United Nations. However, the struggle for a stable and lasting peace on earth as well as the fight for independence, sovereignty and development are far from ended. They have even grown more intense given the self-evident fact that the imperialist and reactionary forces will never of their own will renounce their designs of domination and exploitation of the world's peoples.

Today, with the constant growth of the forces of national independence, peace and social progress, there exists a real possibility of more and more effectively preventing and gradually thwarting all attempts to provoke a new world war. However, given the insane calculations of the warlike and militarist forces, the danger remains greater than ever of a war which would spell

mankind's own extinction. These forces continue accelerating the arms race, particularly in the nuclear field, in a bid to destroy the strategic equilibrium. Worse even, under the deceitful label of "Strategic Defense Initiative", they have launched a programme to extend the arms race into outer space, thus posing a new threat to the world peoples. The struggle against the arms race on earth as well as in outer space is an issue of immediate significance and a priority for all peoples. Any action for peace, independence and sovereignty of nations and for democracy, welfare and social justice is inseparable from the common struggle to prevent a nuclear war. Along with its other constructive peace initiatives, the Soviet Union's unilateral moratorium on all nuclear tests until the end of this year represents a clear gesture of goodwill and an important contribution to world peace and international security.

In the past four decades, Europe has gone through a long and complex struggle to preserve peace and peaceful coexistence between the two different social systems, against all attempts by the imperialist forces to obliterate the socialist system which came into being following the Second World war. This struggle bore fruit with the signing of the Helsinki Act in 1975 which defined the framework for peaceful coexistence, later reaffirmed at the Madrid Conference in 1983. But in view of the invariable nature of imperialism, the struggle to consolidate peaceful coexistence in Europe remains a burning issue : namely, the question of how to avert a nuclear conflagration the unavoidable consequence of which would be a catastrophe for all mankind.

For the past four decades, notwithstanding the absence of a world war, the peoples of Asia have never known any real peace. They have faced the bloodiest and longest wars. Even today, Asia remains a hot spot due to the policies of certain imperialist and militarist forces who are trying to turn Asia and the Pacific into an arena of political and military confrontation. Obviously, Asia still lacks a framework for peaceful coexistence but the premises thereof are taking shape : in the course of the past four decades the peoples of this continent have recorded successive victories in the struggle for national independence and social progress. Thus was made possible the emergence of a balance of forces favourable to peace, radically changing the face of the world, irrespective of the intransigence of the imperialist and colonialist forces. Long and complex though it may remain, the struggle for peaceful coexistence in Asia and the Pacific coalescing with the trend of our time is bound to carry the day. In this regard, we can note the truly realistic character of the Soviet Union's proposals on building mutual confidence in the Far East and on convening a forum to discuss all questions relating to peace and security in Asia and the Pacific, as well as of Mongolia's initiative regarding the signing of a treaty of mutual non-aggression and non-use of force in relations among States of Asia and the Pacific.

During the past forty years, hundreds of millions of people among the oppressed nations have stood up to throw off the colonial yoke and win back their independence and freedom. In this heady atmosphere and acting in accordance with the general trend, the United Nations adopted, at its 15th Session 25 years ago, the "Declaration on the Granting of Independence to the Colonial Peoples and Countries". In its wake, many other important resolutions were adopted by the United Nations with the aim of affirming the right of all peoples to live in independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, as well as their right to choose the political system they desire. Up to the present however, many peoples in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Oceania are still engaged in a fierce struggle to achieve and preserve these sacred inalienable rights.

The peoples of Central America and the Caribbean are facing the United States' policy of aggression, directed especially at Cuba and Nicaragua, the

persistence of colonialism in Puerto Rico and the repression of the revolutionary movement in El Salvador and other progressive national movements. A military contingent was even dispatched to invade Grenada. Such a policy has created tensions, threatened the peace and stability of the region, utterly disregarding the efforts of the Contadora group which are designed to find a negotiated solution to the situation in Central America.

The Namibian people, under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), and the South African people, under the leadership of the African National Congress (ANC) are persevering in a long and arduous, but most valiant struggle against the brutal domination of colonialism and apartheid, and for the right to genuine self-determination and independence. The Frontline states are still constantly coping with acts and threats of aggression from certain imperialist forces and the racist regime of South Africa, in order to defend their independence, sovereignty and security, and to affirm their right to contribute most effectively to the realization of the international demand for the elimination of the last stronghold of colonialism in that part of the world.

The peoples of the Middle East are still engaged in a continuing fight against the Israeli Zionists and their masters who are intensifying their policy of aggression against the Palestinian people and their attempts to undermine the latter's unity as well as the fundamental national rights of the Palestinian and Arab peoples.

In the midst of the current session of the General Assembly, barely a few days ago, a bombing raid was staged by the Israeli Zionists against PLO headquarters near Tunis and almost simultaneously, an armed attack was launched against Angola by the South African racists. Both criminal acts stem from the same policy of state terrorism that Vietnam vehemently condemns.

In Asia and the Pacific, the right to self-determination of small territories such as Micronesia, New Caledonia, etc... has yet to be implemented. In the face of the attempt to create two Korean States and of the continued presence of U.S. troops in South Korea, the Korean people still have to continue their struggle to achieve the peaceful and sovereign reunification of their country. Despite their tremendous achievements in reviving and developing their country, for the next period of years the Kampuchean people must still exert every effort in order to remove forever the danger of renewed genocide fostered by Peking. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is still confronted by an undeclared war carried out by the agents of the forces of imperialism and of big-nation hegemonism.

As a people who have undergone thirty years of war against foreign aggression Vietnam reserves its steadfast sympathy and vigorous support for the peoples of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Oceania in their struggle against imperialism and colonialism.

Colonialism has been brought down. But the exploitation, oppression and domination of the peoples are growing even worse under various forms of neo-colonialism. The struggle of the developing countries on the economic front is a burning issue. Many economic resolutions adopted by the United Nations remain dead letter while the national economies of the developing countries, burdened with enormous difficulties and colossal foreign debts, continue to deteriorate. Such a situation only emphasizes further the imperative nature of the struggle for a new international economic order.

The Non-Aligned movement evinces the determination and vitality of the peoples struggling against imperialism, colonialism, and other reactionary forces, and for peace, independence and development. The resolutions of the Movement,

especially those adopted at the 6th and 7th Summits and at the recent Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Luanda, meet the requirements of the situation and are in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam reiterates its endorsement of these resolutions and believes that they will receive the approval and support of the United Nations.

At a time when the international community is celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam commemorates its 40th founding anniversary. Due to the stonewalling by forces bent on turning back the clock, the first worker-peasant state in South East Asia had to wait 32 years before it could become a member of this Organization. During the past four decades, however, the Vietnamese people, at the cost of their blood, and acting in close solidarity with the international community and especially with the fraternal Lao and Kampuchean peoples have foiled the utmost attempts of the forces of colonialism, imperialism and international reaction to realize their schemes. By dint of their struggle for peace, independence, national reunification and socialism, the Vietnamese people have powerfully contributed to building the high tide of anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist struggle throughout the world. For the past six years, by making constant efforts and setting forth constructive peace initiatives which conform to the interests of the parties involved, the three peoples of Indochina have significantly contributed to thwarting the policy of confrontation and tension pursued by imperialist and reactionary forces. Consequently, a real possibility now exists to work out a framework for peaceful co-existence among States in South East Asia, and between them and countries outside the region, and to build a South East Asia of peace, stability and cooperation. Should an early political solution be reached which would guarantee the security and sovereignty of all States and peoples in the region, including Kampuchea, the total withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer forces will be completed before the 1990 deadline unilaterally decided upon by the governments of Vietnam and Kampuchea. The Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea has declared its readiness to enter talks with groups or individuals in the opposition aimed at discussing the realization of national reconciliation based on the removal of Pol Pot and the organization of general elections after the total withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer forces from Kampuchea. The conditions for a political solution to the problems in South East Asia and in Kampuchea are steadily ripening. In this endeavour to build a peaceful and secure South East Asia, Vietnam's national interests and those of the international community coincide. Vietnam has done and will do its utmost to contribute to the success of this noble cause. At the same time, we welcome all joint efforts on the part of countries concerned as well as all initiatives to this end wherever they may come from. We are pleased to note that the recent talks between Vietnam, representing the Indochinese countries and Indonesia, representing the ASEAN countries, have yielded positive results, notwithstanding certain differences. These talks have paved the way for a process of substantive dialogue on an equal footing, in a spirit of mutual respect and mutual concern for each other's legitimate interests, neither side imposing its views on the other and without interference from powers external to the region, with a view to reaching an equitable solution to the question of South East Asia. We wish to thank friendly countries for their encouragement of a dialogue undertaken in this spirit.

We most highly appreciate the positive contribution of the Secretary General of the United Nations to the search for a political solution in the interest of peace, stability and cooperation in South East Asia. We are equally appreciative of the valuable and effective economic and technical assistance given by the United Nations and its specialized agencies to our national construction.

On the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations, the Vietnamese Delegation warmly salutes the contributions of this Organization to peace and international security and to the independence, freedom and happiness of the world's peoples. In the future, despite numerous difficulties and complexities, based on the strength of the achievements of the revolutionary movements and of the forces of peace, the United Nations will undoubtedly make an even more important contribution to the interests of the international community.