

EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
Press and Information Section

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I- MEMORANDUM OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF  
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ON CHINA'S WAR ESCALATION  
AND AGGRAVATION OF TENSION ALONG THE VIETNAM-CHINA BORDER,

Since early April, 1984 till now, the Chinese authorities have been launching a campaign of shelling and nibbling attacks on a large scale in the northern border area of Vietnam.

This is a new step of war escalation which was planned well in advance and is being carried out by the Chinese authorities on a scale unprecedented in the armed provocations and land-grabbing attacks of the past five years. Since their war of aggression against Vietnam in February, 1979 which ended in defeat, this serious act of war has flagrantly violated the territorial sovereignty of Vietnam, undermined the security and disrupted the normal working life of the Vietnamese people in border areas. It has all the more exposed the wicked attempt of aggression of the hegemonists and expansionists within the Beijing ruling circles, multiplied their crimes against the Vietnamese people. This also constitutes an insolent challenge to peace and justice-loving forces in the world. The situation along the Sino-Vietnamese border is becoming very tense and in the danger of becoming more explosive. Beijing has ceaselessly been making slanders and distortions with a view to covering up the fact that they are escalating the war against the Vietnamese people.

I/ FACTS :

1- Making slanders and preparations for war escalation :

To begin with a slander campaign against Vietnam in February 1984, in the border region of Guang Si, Hu Yaobang, Chinese Party leader said : "Our border is not yet tranquil and still subjected to serious provocations by Vietnam and China, will resolutely strike back!" In tone with Hu Yaobang's allegations the Chinese propaganda machine raised a hue-and-cry slanderously charging Vietnam with building fortifications laying barbed wires and seizing many points in Chinese territory.

On April 26, in Guang Zhou, Chinese Air Force Commander Zhang Ting Fa said : "China is facing serious provocations by Vietnam's regional hegemonism". Recently Chinese representative at the United Nations Ling Qing stated : "China reserves its right to teach Vietnam a second lesson". The Voice of America on April 3, 1984 reported : "China is using the same words as before February 17, 1979". Parallel to acts of slanderous propaganda and threats, the Chinese authorities have frenziedly intensified their military forces in preparation for a new step of its escalation against Vietnam. They have sent many divisions of the strategic reserve force belonging to the two great military zones of Guang Zhou and Kun Ming to areas bordering on Vietnam for reinforcement to the 15 divisions permanently stationed there. They have transferred various types of long range artillery rockets, tanks and other sophisticated war means to key area's heights and border gates opposite to the six northern border provinces of Vietnam. They have put the Chinese forces in the border areas including air force units in a state of alert and continually staged combined military exercises with the participation of different arms and services such as tanks, artillery and the air force with a view to intimidating the security of Vietnam. UPI on May 1, 1984 revealed : "Chinese forces along the Sino-Vietnamese border have been put on full alert of combat and China has sent fighter aircraft down to the southern area bordering on Vietnam to support its infantry forces".

2- Wanton shelling in initiation of a new step of war escalation :

Having suffered defeat in the war of aggression in 1979, the Chinese authorities have frequently carried out armed provocation in Vietnam's border area considering it as the principal manoeuvre with a view to weakening Vietnam and thereby subjugating it.

The Chinese authorities have over the past five years launched long bouts of bombardment at scores of places along the Sino-Vietnamese border. And for each time thousands of mortar shells were fired. Typical are the following cases :

In July 1980, during two weeks China fired more than 5,000 mortar shells on nearly ten points in Quang Ninh, Cao Bang, Ha Tuyen and Hoang Lien Son provinces.

In May 1981, during 10 days China fired more than 4,000 mortar shells of various types on the hill range 400 in Lang Son province.

In April 1983, during two weeks China fired more than 4,500 shells of various types on 13 points of 6 Vietnamese border provinces.

Since April 2, 1984 till now on the whole range of the northern border of Vietnam, they have used artillery and mortars of various types such as 130mm big calibre D74, 122mm howitzers 412 rockets wantonl firing more than 120,000 shells in total on more than 100 points in 26 districts of 6 provinces along the northern border of Vietnam on April 2 and 3, 1984, they fired more than 10,000 shells on 50 points and on April, 16 and 17, 1984, nearly 10,000 shells on more than 40 points in some areas belonging to Ha Tuyen and Lang Son provinces. They have repeatedly carried out the shelling and bombardment with increasing density.

Hereafter are typical cases in a number of the provinces on the northern border of Vietnam :

In Ha Tuyen : from April 28 to May 1, 1984 the Chinese authorities fired 60,000 artillery and mortar shells on 28 out of 33 villages in 7 districts bordering on China particularly on the areas of Vi Xuyen, Thanh Thuy, Yen Minh. Most seriously on May 22, 1984 the Chinese authorities wantonly fired on numerous residential quarters in Ha Giang township (formerly the provincial capital of Ha Giang) which is deep inside Vietnamese territory nearly 20km from the border line.

In Quang Ninh, throughout 30 days and nights of April 1984, the Chinese authorities fired 10,000 mortar shells of various types on many points belonging to 9 villages in the 3 districts of Hai Ninh, Quang Ha and Binh Lieu bordering on Guang Si province of China.

In Cao Bang, from April 2 to May 15, 1984, the Chinese authorities carried out 266 artillery raids firing more than 10,000 artillery and mortar shells of various types on 74 points, in which 34 points deep inside the territory of 8 border districts.

In Lang Son, from April to May 15, 1984 the Chinese authorities carried out the shelling and bombardment on the whole border region of Lang Son province from Trang Dinh district to Dinh Lap district. They fired nearly 40,000 artillery shells on most of villages of 5 districts

of the province among which the districts of Trang Dinh, Cao Loc and Binh Lap were most fiercely and protractedly bombarded.

The shelling and bombardment carried out by the Chinese authorities this time have inflicted numerous losses in lives and property to the people of the 6 provinces in the border region, disrupting production and normal life, multiplying their crimes against the Vietnamese people. Chinese artillery shells have killed and injured a great number of civilians including many old people and children, destroying hundreds of dwelling houses, scores of stores of food, commodities, materials and a number of local factories, hundreds of hectares of rice, maize, tobacco fields and tea plantations were destroyed and left uncultivated, lots of precious timber forests and medicinal herb gardens were levelled.

3- Carrying out land grabbing attacks on Vietnamese territory, preparing for new steps of war escalation :

Having suffered defeat in the war of aggression in February, 1979, thus compelled to pull out their troops, the Chinese authorities continued their illegal occupation of scores of heights and groups of heights along the border line, including more than 10 heights deep inside Vietnamese territory. Since the war in February 1979, with the motto "ride on the borderline, root out the heights", the Chinese authorities have seized an additional number of heights in the border region of Vietnam :

+ In 1980, a regiment-sized infantry force was used under artillery support to attack and seize height 1992, belonging to Xin Man district, Ha Tuyen Province.

+ In 1981, many infantry battalions were mobilised with artillery support to carry out the nibbling attacks on hill range 400 in Cao Loc district, Lang Son province and the heights 1800 A, 1800B, 1688 in Vi Xuyen district, Ha Tuyen province.

Since the end of April, 1984 till now, within only one month, besides carrying out fierce artillery shelling on the border areas of Vietnam, the Chinese authorities have mobilised division-sized infantry forces to frenziedly and massively attack and seize a number of heights in Lang Son and Ha Tuyen provinces :

+ On April 6, 1984 they massed several battalions to attack heights 820 and 636 in Trang Dinh district, Lang Son province. The local armed forces and people fought bravely, annihilating many enemy troops, pushing the rest back to the other side of the border.

+ On April 18, 1984, they used several infantry battalions to attack the area surrounding height 1250 belonging to Yen Minh district Ha Tuyen province. Suffering heavy losses, the Chinese troops had to pull back to their side of the border.

From April 28 to May 1, 1984, having suffered telling blows in the previous nibbling attacks, the Chinese rulers mobilised units, belonging to army corp 14 and independent divisions of Kua Minh Great Military Zone under the support of scores of artillery positions on the Chinese side of the border to frantically and massively attack heights 1545, 1509, 772, 233 in Vi Xuyen district and height cluster 1250 in Yen Minh district, Ha Tuyen province, among them height 233 is more than 1,000 metres inside Vietnamese territory. The local armed forces and people annihilated a large part of the invasion force, capturing a number of enemy troops.

On May, 15 while the Chinese Premier was rhetorically speaking of "goodwill for peace" at the Chinese National Assembly Session, the Chinese ruling circles mobilised one infantry regiment belonging to Kun Ming Military zone to attack and seize height 1030, Vi Xuyen district, Ha Tuyen province.

The above-mentioned facts have demonstrated that since early April 1984 till now, by carrying out fierce artillery shelling and nibbling attacks on an unprecedented scale, bombarding villages adjacent to the border-line and shelling on residential quarters deep inside Vietnamese territory, the Chinese authorities have taken new and serious steps of war escalation against Vietnam committing numerous crimes against the Vietnamese people.

At present, there still exists tension along the Sino-Vietnamese border. The Chinese authorities are repeatedly and continuously firing artillery and mortar shells on Vietnamese territory. They are mobilizing more air and infantry forces to reinforce the 2 great military zones of Kun Ming and Guang Zhou, intensifying the transportation of war materials to the border region, digging trenches, building fortifications... frenziedly preparing for new steps of war escalation.

## II- BEIJING'S LONG TERM SCHEME :

1- The Chinese authorities' war escalation against Vietnam which has been going on since April 2, 1984 is an early calculated act and is part of Beijing's scheme to wage an anti-Vietnamese multi-faceted war of sabotage aimed at "bleeding Vietnam" and conquering this country. It is well-known that having suffered the shameful defeat in their war of aggression in February 1979, the rulers in Beijing still refuse to abandon their expansionist and hegemonist ambitions with regard to Vietnam. Beijing has ceaselessly used the ploy of military pressure on the northern border area of Vietnam, colluded with U.S. imperialism and other international reactionaries in the economic blockade and isolation of Vietnam, attempted to sabotage the peaceful construction of Vietnam after 30 continuous years of war, thus exerting multisided pressure on Vietnam, compelling it to deviate from its independent and sovereign line and eventually annexing it. In order to realize this scheme, over the past 5 years, they have created tense situation along the border between the two countries, driving Vietnam into a permanent state of war, enjoying no peace and stability for national construction. The large-scale artillery shelling and land-grabbing attacks going on since April 2, 1984 constitute a more serious continuation of the armed provocations staged by Beijing throughout the past 5 years against Vietnam.

These new and serious steps of war escalation taken by the Beijing rulers, are obviously aimed at realising their long term scheme to nibble Vietnamese territory, change the historical border-line between the 2 countries, create military advantages for armed activities against Vietnam.

Just like before when the United States escalated its war of aggression, China only started the invasion of Vietnam after having held consultation between them in advance. In 1972, after Nixon visited China the United States staged the blockade of Hai Phong Harbour and resumed the bombing of Hanoi. In early 1979, Deng Xiaoping went to the United States to consult with U.S. President Carter on launching a war of aggression against Vietnam. This time Beijing has chosen the time when it was receiving U.S. President Reagan to bring its land grabbing operation against Vietnam to a culmination. In fact We Xue Qian has discussed the situation at the Sino-Vietnamese

border with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz in order to assure the U.S. support. Clearly the recent Chinese war escalation is a calculated act within the framework of its overall strategy of maintaining collusion with the United States and other international reactionary forces against Vietnam and against the three Indochinese countries as a whole, causing tension in this region and in the rest of the world, intensifying war escalation and causing explosive situation in the Sino-Vietnamese border area is also a way for Beijing to bolster the sagging morale of the Pol Pot remnants and their accomplices, flaunt its support to Thailand, undermine the tendency developing among the ASEAN countries to abandon Pol Pot and activate relations with Vietnam.

In order to cover up their schemes and acts of war escalation against Vietnam and mislead world public opinion, the Chinese authorities have resorted to vicious means in their brazen slanders against Vietnam while frenziedly preparing for a new military adventure against Vietnam and threatening to invade Vietnam once again. They slanderously charged Vietnam with increasing war activities and waiting for an opportunity to invade China while encroaching upon Vietnamese territory and brazenly violating Vietnam's sovereignty. They made a hue-and-cry about Vietnam building fortification, seizing China's heights thus "compelling China to put up self-defense retaliation"! This is the familiar thief shouting stop thief trick that Beijing has been playing for five years now whenever they pushed up armed provocations and encroachments upon Vietnamese territory.

Beijing's contention on the so-called "self defense retaliation" cannot hold water. In February, 1979, Beijing spread the same argument when they mobilized six hundred thousand troops to invade Vietnam and during the past five years, they have ceaselessly repeated this old song.

Beijing repeatedly said that "after February 1979, Vietnam used its troops to seize many of China's heights", thus compelling China to retaliate in defense of its territory. This deceitful Chinese contention has been exposed by public opinion, even American analysts say that the four heights attacked by China are on Vietnamese territory (Feer, May 1984). American public opinion also acknowledged that China seized Vietnam's heights and shelled on Vietnamese territory even when the situation on the Kampuchean-Thai border had returned to tranquillity (Times, May 1984).

Parallel to spreading the above-mentioned tricky contention, Beijing has been doing its best to embellish an extremely "moderate" face, repeatedly saying that "China does not want to get involved in military conflicts", "China needs a peaceful international background to fulfill its four modernisations" and uttering time and again the same old words which it has been using for a long time now: "If you do not touch me I will not touch you, if you touch me, I will inevitably touch you". Beijing even shamelessly said that "China is sincerely desirous to improve its relation with Vietnam" and that "if Vietnam ceases its armed provocations, the Sino-Vietnamese border will return to tranquillity"... etc.

The whole world knows clearly that during the past 40 years China has always used the deceitful "peace" and "self-defense" signboards to conceal their acts of aggressive war against neighbouring countries. They did the same thing when launching the border war against India in 1962 occupying 370 thousand square kilometres of

Indian territory. They resorted to the same pretext when starting the border conflict with the Soviet Union in April, 1969 and when staging the war of aggression against Vietnam in February 1979.

The policy followed by the Beijing rulers during the last decades is one of pitting countries against each other and seeking every possible way to create 'great chaos' in other countries, especially in its neighbours, in order to weaken and then to conquer or to rival with them for influence. The February, 1979 invasion of Vietnam and the land-grabbing campaign against Vietnam which has been going on since early April till now are conspicuous manifestations of this vicious Chinese policy. What should also be pointed out is that during the past five years, the Chinese authorities have rejected all constructive and reasonable proposals put forth by Vietnam on ceasing acts of armed conflict along the border between the two countries, on resuming negotiations as well as on signing treaties of peaceful co-existence and non-aggression respectively between China and Vietnam and between China and the other Indochinese countries. The above-mentioned developments prove that Beijing's rhetorical words on the so-called China's 'goodwill' or its 'sincere desire' to improve relations with Vietnam are but empty words aimed at misleading world public opinion. The truth is that Beijing wants to avoid being tied up by peace agreements with Vietnam so that it can have a free hand to create tension along the border and bestow itself the right to 'teach a second lesson' to Vietnam, at the same time to check Vietnam from retaliating its acts of aggression.

More than anyone else, having gone through thirty years of war, Vietnam is earnest of peace. While pointing to Vietnam's desire to preserve peace and stability along the border these above-mentioned facts prove that Beijing considers it a need to cause tension along the border between the two countries to maintain a state of war, compelling Vietnam to cope with it in the long run.

Vietnam and China are neighbouring countries sharing a common border line, the peoples of the two countries enjoy age-old friendly relations. The worsening of the Sino-Vietnamese relations to the present level is completely due to the Chinese authorities' hegemonist and expansionist policy against Vietnam. The recent grave war escalation by the Chinese authorities shows that they have not resigned themselves to defeat and that they have not given up the scheme of subjugating Vietnam. The government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam sternly denounces to public opinion the Chinese authorities' criminal acts and brazen stand, it calls upon the peace and justice-loving people in the world to strongly condemn the Chinese authorities' criminal acts against the Vietnamese people and demand that they put an end to them. The Government and people of Vietnam call upon the people of China to put up a vigorous struggle demanding the Chinese authorities to give up their hostile policy against Vietnam so that the blood of the Chinese people's sons will stop shedding while committing crimes in service to the Chinese authorities' hegemonist and expansionist scheme.

The government and people of Vietnam are always sincerely desirous to solve, through peaceful negotiations the problems existing between Vietnam and China, thus proceeding to the normalization of relations between the two countries on the basis of mutual respect for each other's independence and sovereignty in the interest of the Vietnamese people, of the peoples of other countries

in the region and of the Chinese people themselves. But at the same time, they have great enough a determination to defend and to build their fatherland, resolutely punishing the crimes committed by the Chinese hegemonists and expansionists against the Vietnamese people.

The Chinese authorities must immediately put an end to all acts of war aimed at seizing Vietnamese territory and to threats against Vietnam, withdraw their armed forces from Vietnam's heights that they have seized, respect Vietnam's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Chinese authorities must bear full responsibility for the consequences of their adventurous military acts against Vietnam.

Hanoi, June 4, 1984.

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JOURNALISTS TOUR HA GIANG TOWN,  
PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF HA TUYEN,

Hanoi, VNA May 28 - A large number of Vietnamese and foreign journalists went to Ha Giang Town, Ha Tuyen provincial capital this morning to see traces of the atrocities committed by Chinese troops against the local population on May 22.

They were guided by Mrs. Vu Thi Thang, official of the Ha Giang People's Committee, in a tour of areas subjected to Chinese artillery bombardments, including 130mm and 155mm rounds, which took place from 16.15 hours to 21.40 hours on May 22. These places are located from 18 to 20 kilometres from the Vietnamese-Chinese border. Chinese shells killed six civilians and wounded seven others, mostly women and children.

The journalists called at the ruined house of Mr. Pham Duc Hai where three of his children six-year-old Pham Ngoc Lan and nine-month-old Pham Van Thai were killed, and nine-year-old Pham Van Thanh was wounded in the head and the arm during the said artillery shelling by Chinese troops. They saw fragments of Chinese artillery shells left scattering in his house.

The People's Committee of Ha Tuyen province organized a press conference, which was addressed by Hoang Thua, Vice-Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee, and Luu Dinh La, Chairman of the people's Committee of Ha Giang town.

They said that since early April 1984 Chinese troops have shelled 28 of the 33 villages of districts bordering on China, from Son Vy village (Meo Vac district) to Ta Pinh, Vay Vay and Vay Chu villages (Xin Man district) stretching for 270 kilometres. Chinese troops have also bombarded Phuong Tien, Phuong Do and Phong Quang Villages (Vy Xuyen district) and La Khe village (Yen Minh district) more than 10 kilometres inside Vietnam and the densely populated town of Ha Giang.



According to initial figures, Chinese troops have fired more than 60,000 rounds including H-12 rockets on those villages. Chinese shelling killed or injured 60 civilians, destroyed 212 dwelling houses, 18 hospitals and schools, a hydro-electric power station, an engineering factory and a food processing enterprise. Chinese troops killed or took away more than 300 head of cattle, burnt a large quantity of food, and ravaged thousands of hectares of rice and other crop fields causing a loss about 2,500 tons of food.

The people and armed forces of Ha Tuyen province have duly punished Chinese troops for their crimes, putting out of action or heavily decimating 11 Chinese battalions, destroying 20 artillery and mortar grounds and capturing enemy soldiers.

## II- STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ON THE AIRSPACE OF VIETNAM,

On June 5, the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam issues the following statement on the airspace of Vietnam :

The Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam states the following provisions on the airspace above the territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

1. The airspace of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam comprises the airspace above its land territory, islands, internal waters and territorial sea and falls within the complete and exclusive sovereignty of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

2. Flights of any foreign aircraft shall be operated in the airspace of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam only on the basis of air navigation treaties or agreements signed by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the countries concerned or permissions granted by the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in case of a non-scheduled flight.

3. All foreign aircraft permitted to fly in the airspace of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions shall follow international air-routes or those defined by the Vietnamese authorities and shall be permitted to land at air-ports open to foreign aircraft or other airports which are designated by the Vietnamese authorities.

4. While operating in the airspace of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, foreign aircraft must fully observe all laws and regulations of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and subject themselves to the control and guidance of the Vietnamese authorities in all fields and are strictly forbidden to carry out in any manner, any activities in violation of the sovereignty, security of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam or which would be detrimental to its interests.

5. It is forbidden to use means of any kind in any manner to discharge, launch or drop any objects from outside into the airspace or through the airspace into the land territory, internal waters, territorial sea and islands of Vietnam in an attempt to violate Vietnam's security, cause harm to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam or hinder the air navigation within the airspace of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

6. Any violations of the principles of this statement or other relevant laws and regulations shall be dealt with in keeping with the law of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

7. Other matters relating to the airspace of Vietnam will be specifically stipulated later on the basis of this statement and the principle of respect for the sovereignty, security and other interests of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in conformity with international law./.

### III- THE THIRD ANNUAL WITHDRAWAL OF VIETNAMESE VOLUNTEER TROOPS FROM KAMPUCHEA,

On implementation of the decision of the February 1983 Summit Conference of Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam on the presence of volunteers from the Vietnamese Armed Forces in Kampuchea, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea have agreed to withdraw another part of Vietnamese volunteer troops from Kampuchea. This is the third partial withdrawal and it consists of three brigades and regiments and a number of independent battalions from the western and north-western regions of Kampuchea. It will be completed at the end of June 1984.

Following the first two partial withdrawals on July 1982, and May 1983, the June 1984 withdrawal shows the increasingly stable and irreversible situation in Kampuchea. Five years after liberation, the People's Republic of Kampuchea has scored great achievements in all fields. Especially, the Kampuchean people's armed forces have been unceasingly consolidated. Their military victory in the mopping-up operations against Pol Pot's remnants and their accomplices in recent dry season clearly shows this strength.

This withdrawal proves not only the seriousness on the part of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea in carrying out scrupulously their commitment laid out in the February 1983 Statement on the presence of volunteers from the Vietnamese Armed Forces in Kampuchea but also the true respect of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the independence and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Kampuchea as well as their determination to seek a peaceful solution to the problems of the region through dialogue.

This withdrawal also reaffirms the correct conclusion of the 8th Indochinese Foreign Ministers' Conference held in Vientiane January 1984 that the problems concerning peace and stability in South East Asia can only be solved by a global solution or a partial settlement stipulated in the conference communique.

This withdrawal further exposes the hostile policy of the Chinese ruling circles and Thai authorities. The fact is that their confrontation policy will only lead to a tense situation, to deadlock and failure. The road to peace and stability in South East Asia is that the Chinese authorities must put an end to their support for Pol Pot and his accomplices who are using Thai territory as sanctuaries to launch attacks against the rebirth of the Kampuchean people./.

IV- ECONOMICS - CULTURE - EDUCATION - SCIENCES,

STEP UP THE PRODUCTION OF FOOD GRAIN,

Over the past three years, the production of food grain, rice in particular, has shown noticeable progress. The yearly rate of growth in 1981-83 was 6.40/o for food grain in general and 80/o for rice in particular : this was the highest rate so far in the history of agricultural development in Vietnam. The average share of food grain per head of population has increased steadily but so far has attained only 300 kilos per year, a figure on the borderline between sufficiency and shortage, not to mention the amount needed for animal husbandry and for constituting reserves.

In the 10th-lunar-month rice season of 1983, unfavourable weather conditions prevailed. In certain places, people's life ran into difficulties. This proved that food production, inspite of the progress made, had not yet been steady enough.

In the winter-spring campaign of 1984, the severest weather conditions for twenty years prevailed in the North. Great efforts had to be spent in order to get the entire planned area sown. In many localities, rice seedlings had to be planted for the third time before they could survive.

Because of the small area of cropland per head of population, the fairly high population growth rate, the ever-increasing requirements of life and the erratic weather conditions, we must regard food production as the foremost task for a long period ahead.

The following measures are to be practised :

- Strict management of food-crop land. Its area should be expanded through crop multiplication and clearing of virgin land. The decrease in the area of riceland in the South must be checked.

- Building up the material-technical infrastructure and application of technical achievements with a view to intensive farming. At present the movement for intensive crop cultivation is not yet uniform throughout the country, hence the fairly great differences in yields among the localities. The average paddy yield for the whole country is only 2.65 tonnes per hectare per crop.

- Due attention must be given to both rice and subsidiary food crops, maize in particular; intensive farming should also be practised with regard to subsidiary food crops.

- Readjustments must be made in the management and organization not only of the production, but also of the transport, storage and consumption of food grain so as to attain higher economic efficiency.

TOTAL NUMBER OF STATE FARMS : OVER 370,

This figure is the most recently released by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Dac Lac is the province with the largest number of State farms : 20, Kien Giang and Nghe Tinh have 17 each. Gia Lai - Kontum, Long An, Dong Nai, Binh Tri Thien, Thanh Hoa and Hoang Lien Son

possess more than ten farms each.

Most State farms have been set up on newly-cleared land in the uplands, highlands, and in border areas.

Each year, products coming from the State farms include 15,000 tonnes of coffee beans (fresh), 50,000 tonnes of tea (fresh young leaves), nearly 50,000 tonnes of dried rubber latex, nearly 15,000 tonnes of citrus fruit, 50,000 tonnes of pineapples, more than 200 tonnes of dried pepper seeds, and more than 100,000 tonnes of food grain.

The State farms also turn out each year thousands of head of young cattle, thousands of tonnes of meat and fish, and nearly 5,000 tonnes of fresh milk.

Although produced in still modest amounts, the products of the State farms have high economic value : exportable farm and forestry products, materials for processing industries, plant seeds and saplings, brood animals...

At present nearly 200,000 people (cadres, workers) work in the State farms.

#### AGRICULTURE IN HO CHI MINH CITY IN 1983,

In the period between 1981 and 1983, the total value of agricultural production in Ho Chi Minh City (mainly the rural suburbs) increased by 18-20%/o.

Rice : in 1983, the sown area of 77,071 hectares gave 231,300 tonnes of paddy (up 25%/o, 6.6%/o, and 15.6%/o compared with 1981, 1982, and the planned target, respectively). The per capita share of food grain has risen to 430 kilos, as against the national average of 300 kilos. High-yield rice fields now account for 16,500 hectares (22%/o of total area) as against 6,000 hectares in 1981, and for 30%/o of the total output of paddy. Over the past three years, about 100 new varieties of rice have been planted. Great attention has been attached to the struggle against epiphytotics and to water conservation and fertilizer input. Another positive feature has been the application of the product-based contract system.

However, the production of subsidiary food crops has declined : only 11,000 tonnes of paddy equivalent (80%/o of the planned target. On the other hand, that of vegetables has increased and can now satisfy 60%/o of the needs of this great southern metropolis. The area under industrial crops (especially sugar cane and tobacco) has increased by 90%/o from 1982.

Thanks to policies of encouragement to cattle breeding, the buffalo herd has grown (up 2.30%/o compared with the planned target and up 80%/o from 1982).

One important point : the value of exported farm products in 1983 was double that of 1982 and 20 times that of 1981.

### GROWING OF GROUNDNUTS ON HILLSLOPES,

Formerly groundnuts were grown only on alluvial soils. Recently, however, the Institute of Industrial Crops and Fruit Trees has successfully acclimatized a foreign strain which gives high yields and can grow on hillslopes.

The process has taken several years. Now, this strain gives 1.5 tonnes per hectare, and even up to 2.7 tonnes if intensive cultivation is practised.

Thanks to its sturdiness, resistance to drought, and nitrogen-fixing roots, this plant conserves humidity, improves the soil and protects it against erosion.

Its cultivation will be propagated in hilly regions.

### CARPETS FOR EXPORT,

In 1984, the 25th anniversary will be marked of the branch of carpet manufacturing for export. An exhibition has been held, highlighting the progress achieved in the technique of weaving, the art of presentation, the designing of ornamental motifs, etc.

Vietnamese-made carpets are exported to many countries, including Britain. They have received awards at international fairs : Leipzig in the GDR and Plovdiv in Bulgaria.

### CHAM LANGUAGE TEXTBOOKS,

The Cham constitute an ethnic minority group belonging to the Malayo-Polynesian linguistic group, of the Austronesian linguistic family, living mostly in the southern part of central Vietnam, especially in Thuan Hai province. They number about 50,000 at present. In the 1981-1982 schoolyear, there were nearly 1,000 pupils in infant classes, 7,394 in basic general-education schools, 208 in secondary schools, and 315 in evening classes (primary, junior secondary, and senior secondary levels). Of the teachers, 257 are Cham.

In early 1978, a decision was taken by the Thuan Hai provincial authorities to set up a committee entrusted with drafting Cham language textbooks for the primary level. At present the writing of these textbooks has been completed and trial teaching has begun. Two such textbooks for complementary adult education have also been published.

### SOME RESULTS OF RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN AT THE VIETNAM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCES,

A balance-sheet has been drawn by the Institute of Sciences of the results of research undertaken in the period from 1981 to 1983. From about 150 projects, a selection has been made of the more important works, which have been grouped into four categories :

- Geological and environmental investigations and surveys aimed at the exploitation of natural resources and economic zoning. The data collected will be recorded in the National Atlas.

- Sciences of life serving agriculture : cross-breeding of animals and plants, protection of animals and plants, etc.

- Building of scientific bases for industry : technical climatic maps, data serving the manufacture and utilization of equipment in tropical climatic conditions, etc.

- Information theory.

Studies are being undertaken for the application of those scientific and technical achievements.

#### TASKS AHEAD FOR MEDICINE,

A recent decision of the Council of Ministers states that our health services, in spite of many difficulties, have recorded good results over the past period, especially in the prevention of epidemics, the exploitation of medicinal substances available in the country, the maintenance and building of the health-care network and family planning. However, weaknesses are still noted in the political education of the cadres, the health-care network, the prevention of epidemics, traditional medicine and in certain places the distribution and use of medicaments.

The decision lays down the following tasks for medicine for the period up to 1985 :

- Boost the hygiene movement to prevent epidemics; if they show signs of breaking out, stamp them out within the shortest time possible. Bring the cholera mortality rate down to 0.30/o. Bring down the morbidity rate of infectious diseases.

- Upgrade the standards of medical care, consultations and examinations; give an annual average of three consultations per head of population; particular attention to be given to care for children, women, workers, public employees, old people...

- Bring the population growth rate in the whole country down to 1.70/o.

- Satisfy the needs of the people in current medicines; complete the socialist transformation of the medicament market; eliminate private traders in medicines.

The decision also stipulates various measures to be applied by the various branches.

#### THE RECENT CYCLONE IN HAI PHONG : ITS EFFECTS QUICKLY OVERCOME,

On 16 April last, a violent cyclone landed in Hai Phong with hurricane-force winds measuring 12 on the Beaufort scale.

A communique of the city's People's Committee dated 17 April said 36 people died, 105 were injured, 14 missing; 342 houses were

knocked down, and thousands of others had their roofs blown away; 38 high-voltage power transmission pylons and low-voltage power transmission poles were knocked down. The whole system of the 35-kilovolt power transmission line into the city was put out of order. The harbour suffered damage.

The city administration quickly mobilized all means and forces available to overcome the effects of the cyclone : providing first aid to the wounded, food supplies to those who needed them, repairing the damaged houses, ensuring order and security. The Hai Phong cement works rapidly became operational again.

VIETNAMESE DELEGATION ATTENDS THE ECONOMIC  
SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF CMEA MEMBER STATES.

The Vietnamese Party and Government delegation was led by Party General Secretary Le Duan. The members of the delegation included Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Vo Chi Cong, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee, Tran Quynh, member of the Central Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Dinh Nho Lien, member of the Central Committee, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Soviet Union.

On June 12, 1984, a meeting took place in the Kremlin between Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the CPVN Central Committee, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Nikolai Tikhonov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R.

The two leaders highly appreciated the work of the economic conference and emphasized that it opens up a new stage in the development and perfection of co-operation between fraternal socialist countries, and in the accomplishment of the tasks of further deepening socialist economic intergration and of increasing the economic potential of the socialist community.

There was an exchange of views on a number of issues of mutual interest. Much attention was given to further developing and raising the effectiveness of economic, scientific and technical co-operation between the two countries in the light of the results of the meeting between Le Duan, General Secretary of the CPVN Central Committee and Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the CPVN Central Committee, Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Konstantin Chernenko, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on June 11, 1984, and of its importance for the steady strengthening of fraternal friendship and cohesion between the CPSU and the CPVN, the USSR and the SRVN.

The conversation took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere

STATEMENT OF VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY  
ON THAI VIOLATIONS OF LAO TERRITORY,

After the intrusions on May 24 and 25, 1984 by hundreds of Thai troops into Tan May Ban Nafay and Ban Kang hamlets, Parlay district, Say Aboury province of the Lao People's Democratic Republic from June 5 to 8, 1984 the Thai reactionary authorities used aircraft, artillery and infantry units in nibbling attacks against Ban May Ban Kang and Ban Savang hamlets causing dangerous tension along the Lao-Thai border.

By attacking those hamlets of Laos, the Thai authorities have cynically violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Laos and acted counter to the commitments reached in the Joint Lao-Thai Communique in 1979 and the common desire of the Lao and Thai peoples for good neighbourly relations and for friendly and peaceful co-existence.

Along with its violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and its slanders about (Vietnam's) encroachment on Thai territory, the above mentioned encroachment upon the Lao territory by Thailand were conducted right after the Commander-in-Chief of the Thai army had gone to the United States and China to seek for military aid and while China was carrying out its military escalation against Vietnam. This shows that the Thai reactionary circles have colluded more and more closely with the hegemonist, expansionist and imperialist forces to oppose the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the three Indochinese countries and the prevailing trend of dialogue between the Indochinese and ASEAN countries and to undermine peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam fully supports the principled stance of the Lao People's Democratic Republic as expounded in the June 13, 1984 Statement of the Lao Foreign Ministry and resolutely demands that the Thai side withdraw all its troops from the three Lao hamlets it has occupied, return to Laos those Lao citizens captured during its attacks and compensate the Lao side for the losses it has caused.

The Thai authorities must stop at once all acts of aggression against the Lao People's Democratic Republic and their acts of colluding with the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists to cause tension in the region.

Ha Noi, 14 June 1984.