

EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
Press and Information Section

12 Victoria Road, London W8 Tel.01.937 1912.

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1. VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY STATEMENT

Hanoi, VNA, June 24 - A U.S State Department spokesman yesterday alleged that a group of U.S destroyers had been attacked by Vietnamese fishing boats South of Vietnam's Con Son island during the night of June 20.

This was only a fabrication. The kind of weapons with which Vietnamese fishing boats are equipped are intended for self-defence only and cannot be used to attack U.S destroyers. Moreover, the Vietnamese navy was not operating in the area at that time.

Viet Nam News Agency is authorized to reject this groundless charge by the United States.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH ANSWERS VNA QUESTIONS

Hanoi, VNA June 18 - Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach today gave the following interview to Vietnam News Agency :

Question 1 : What countries in Southeast Asia will you visit ?

Answer : I shall visit Burma to reciprocate the visit to Vietnam in early 1981 by the Burmese Foreign Minister. Since 1980 Singapore and the Philippines have many times extended invitations to me but not until now did I have the opportunity to gratify them. Also on this occasion Indonesia and Malaysia have extended me their invitations which I have accepted with pleasure.

Question 2 : May you tell us the aim of this trip ?

Answer : Vietnam's policy toward the Asean countries is friendship and cooperation. My trip aims to increase mutual understanding and trust and actively contribute to the cause of peace and stability in the southeast asian region.

Question 3 : Some news agencies and newspapers in the West and in the Asian countries said that you would discuss the "Kampuchean Question" with the host countries. Is this true ?

Answer : I shall discuss with them bilateral questions as well as questions concerning peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The questions which come under the sovereignty of Kampuchea must be solved by the Kampuchean people themselves. The presence of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea accords with the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Vietnam and Kampuchea and aims to counter the threat from China's hegemonistic expansionism. Once this threat is removed Vietnam and Kampuchea will agree on the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea.

3. VIETNAM BACKS NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

Hanoi, VNA June 17 - Proceeding from its consistent policy of peace and in conformity with United Nations Statements and Resolutions on curbing the nuclear arms race, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has decided to subscribe to the treaty of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, declared Deputy Foreign Minister Vo Dong Giang at the second special session of the U.N General Assembly on Disarmament on June, 16. Vo Dong Giang pointed out that the U.S imperialists were exaggerating international tension, undermining East-West detent, stepping up the arms race, and opposing disarmament, national independence and sovereignty and world peace and security.

"The well-known peace programme adopted by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union at its 26th Congress and the Soviet Union's recent proposals eloquently prove that the Soviet Government places the elimination of the nuclear catastrophe above all other interests", he said.

"As a non-nuclear country threatened by a nuclear country, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam firmly supports the proposal for an international accord protecting all non-nuclear countries as initiated in 1978", Vo Dong Giang continued.

Vo Dong Giang said : "In the tension now prevailing in many parts of continents, the removal of hot beds of war has become urgent. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam supports the establishment of peace and nuclear-free zones in Latin - America, Africa, the Middle East, the Mediterranean, Europe, Northern Europe, the

Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia. The establishment of such zones must be based on respect for the interests and aspirations of the countries in these regions and must be free of interference and intimidation by outside powers.

As an Asian country, Vietnam welcomes and wholeheartedly supports the proposal made by the People's Republic of Mongolia for a convention of Non-Aggression and renunciation of use of war among the Asian and Pacific countries.

On Southeast Asia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, representing the other two Indochinese countries at the 36th Session of the U.N. General Assembly, advanced the Seven Point Proposal of Peaceful co-existence among countries in the region. This proposal and others made at the various Indochinese Ministerial Conferences are still standing. Vietnam will spare no effort to join the other Indochinese countries in discussion with the ASEAN countries for peaceful settlement of conflicts and differences between the Indochinese and ASEAN countries through negotiations in the spirit that Southeast Asian problems be solved by Southeast Asian countries themselves on the principles of equality, friendship mutual respect and understanding, consideration of one another's legitimate interests, common consent, non-imposition, non-interference from outside, without the use of force or threat of force in their relation. This will create favourable conditions for setting up a region of peace, stability and co-operation in Southeast Asia.

It is clear that interference and threat on the part of Beijing and Washington are the main obstacle to the establishment of a region of peace, stability and co-operation in Southeast Asia. For this reason the Southeast Asian problem now does not mean a problem between the Indochinese and Asean countries. It is the question of doing away with the interference and threat from China and United States so that the countries in this region may set up a region of peace as conceived by them, which has been pointed out in the final statement of the first special session.

The Vietnamese delegation expresses its most cherished hope that this session will reflect the common, prevailing demand of millions of people around the world for an end to the arms race and

the elimination of the danger of a nuclear war, which will help to improve the international atmosphere on the basis of protecting the independence, sovereignty and security of all nations, and to create necessary conditions for social and economic development of all countries especially the developing countries, in justice and democracy.

The Vietnamese delegation holds that state leaders should heed the voice of people of all walks of life on all continents who have different political views but who all want world peace and are makers of history. We maintain that it is necessary to go ahead with preparations for a world-wide disarmament conference as soon as possible.

4. KAMPUCHEAN FOREIGN MINISTER WRITES TO UN SESSION ON DISARMAMENT

Hanoi, VNA, June 8 - 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, has sent a message to the President of the coming Second Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly on Disarmament.

Excerpts of the message released by SPK read :

"The whole mankind knows full well that over recent years, the US Administration has again adopted a warlike policy and accelerated the arms race. President Reagan has proposed a cut in civilian spending and social security in favour of the military budget which this year stands at 22.3 billion dollars... in many parts of the world, the U.S. , in collusion with the Beijing expansionists and hegemonists and other reactionary forces, have caused tension, created new hot beds of war, grossly interfered in other countries' internal affairs and undertaken a series of acts of international terrorism. The bellicose policy and the arms race advocated by the U.S administration are the cause of the growing international tension. The risks of war are permanent, threatening international peace and security.

The people and Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea forcefully condemn this policy of the U.S. as well as the Sino - U.S collusion, and fully support the new proposals of the Soviet Union and the initiatives of the Socialist and Non-Aligned countries and other progressive forces aimed at reducing tension and safeguarding peace and security in the world.

The Polpot clique has carried out the most barbarous genocide in Kampuchea. Having become today an instrument of the Beijing expansionists and hegemonists and the U.S imperialists, this clique is threatening the independence of Kampuchea, and security and stability in Southeast Asia. The presence of this clique at this forum constitutes a challenge to the Kampuchean people and the world public opinion.

The People's Republic of Kampuchea is the only authentic and legal representative of the Kampuchean people in all international organizations and agencies.

5. SRV FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE TO CHINA

Hanoi, VNA, June 27 - The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry today sent the following note to its Chinese counterpart.

"In reply to the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Note to the Vietnamese Embassy in Beijing on June 26, concerning an alleged attack on Chinese fishing boats by Vietnamese armed vessels in the Tonkin gulf on June 16, the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam wishes to point out that what was said in the Chinese note was pure fabrication. The local authorities have affirmed that there was no such incident.

On the other hand, as we have denounced to the public again and again, there have been, over the past few months, hundreds of intrusions by Chinese armed vessels into Vietnamese waters from Quang Ninh province to Binh Tri Thien province to spy on Vietnam, kidnap people and prevent fishermen from going about their business.

The SRV Foreign Ministry firmly rejects China's slander and demands that China immediately stop violating Vietnam's waters and territory and put an end to all hostile schemes against the Vietnamese people".

6. VIETNAM TODAY

Quan Ho Folksongs Get the Place of Honour

In Bac Ninh (now Ha Bac) province, 20 kilometre North East of Hanoi, Quan Ho folk songs were an outstanding feature of cultural life : they were mostly about rural life and love, and were sung, in alternate fashion, by groups of young men and women during village spring festivals. In modern times, however, those festivals have faded into the background and have even disappeared in some instances.

Anxious to save a precious item of our cultural heritage from oblivion, the Ha Bac authorities began to take the appropriate measures in the early 1960's. Teams of workers in musicology, sociology and literature went to the villages to collect and study Quan Ho Songs with the help of renowned singers of both sexes, of whom only about 50 remained, all being rather advanced in years. Hundreds of songs were tape-recorded. Young people were trained with assistance from the veterans and a Quan Ho ensemble was born in 1969. This group performed and won applause in Hanoi and other cities and provinces of the North : Hai Phong, Quang Ninh, Bac Thai, Ha Son Binh, Ha Nam Ninh. Since the liberation of South Vietnam it has also performed in Ho Chi Minh City, Long An, Hau Giang, Tay Ninh as well as before audiences of tourists coming from the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland, France, Japan, Sweden, the USA, etc.

The troupe is now searching to recruit more young members. Studies have been conducted on how to adapt Quan Ho songs to modern life and compose new songs which, while reflecting the various aspects/contemporary rural life, will keep the specific features of the genre. /of

Romeo and Juliet Staged in Hanoi

This famous play by William Shakespeare was performed for the first time in Vietnam in early May, in Hanoi, by the Tuoi Tre (The Youth) theatrical company, which is exclusively composed of young actors and actresses. The play was directed by a young woman, Mrs Pham Thi Thanh.

There was full house at all performances. The company held a Press Conference at which opinions were gathered with a view to even better future staging of the play.
