

EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

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FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH INTERVIEW WITH V.N.A.

Hanoi, VNA, April 14 - Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has granted the following interview to V.N.A. on the recent Extraordinary Conference of the three Indochinese Foreign Ministers :

Question : Was the Extraordinary Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the three Indochinese countries in Phnom Penh on April 12 due to the military situation at the Kampuchean-Thai and Sino-Vietnamese borders and the increasing U.S. military aid to Thailand ?

Answer : The Conference did discuss these matters. But the Extraordinary Conference was convened mainly to examine the important changes that have taken place since the Summit Conference of the three Indochinese countries. There have been, within only a little more than a month, very great changes in favour of the three Indochinese peoples' struggle.

Question : What are the remarkable changes since the Summit Conference of the three Indochinese countries that made the convening of an Extraordinary Conference of the three Foreign Ministers necessary ?

Answer : The success of the Summit Conference of the three Indochinese countries and the important success of the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit are successes of far-reaching, profound and long-term significance. Added to these successes are the important military exploits on the Kampuchean-Thai border, besides, mention should be made of the international symposium on peace held in Kampuchea and many other important events.

This situation highlights the wonderful rebirth in Kampuchea and the growth and the international prestige of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. It also reflects the humiliating failure of the Chinese reactionaries in collusion with the United States in using the Pol Pot clique and the Sihanouk card in an attempt to mislead public opinion and reverse the situation in Kampuchea.

These events also highlight the strength and militant solidarity of the three Indochinese countries, and throw more light on the justice of the presence of Vietnamese volunteers in Kampuchea and the peace policy of the three Indochinese countries.

Over the past one month and more, public opinion has strongly affirmed that the policy of confrontation will only lead to setback and deadlock, while a dialogue between the Southeast Asian countries is the only correct way conducive to peace and stability in the region. In this context, the Malaysian Foreign Minister's proposal to start a dialogue between ASEAN and two Indochinese countries has drawn great public attention.

Question : The Communique of the Foreign Ministers' Conference held in Phnom Penh on April 12 rejects the United Nations Resolution on Kampuchea and considers the 7th Non-Aligned Summit's resolutions on Southeast Asia as a correct solution to problems in the region, so what is the difference between these two resolutions ?

Answer : the United Nations recognizes the genocidal Pol Pot clique and the Pol Pot in the guise of Sihanouk. On the contrary, the Non-Aligned Summit rejected Pol Pot or Pol Pot in disguise, the United Nations has held a conference to settle the question of Kampuchea and urged the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. But the 7th Non-Aligned Summit rejected this resolution of the U.N. and called for negotiations between the Southeast Asian countries to solve all problems in the region and urges the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Southeast Asia. The U.N. resolution accepts the position of one party in Southeast Asia which is aimed at opposing the other and has been rejected by the Non-Aligned Summit. On the contrary, the 7th Non-Aligned Summit's resolution on this question has been accepted by all Non-Aligned countries in both groups of ASEAN and Indochinese countries.

Question : Both the Indochinese and ASEAN countries want dialogue. What are the obstacles ?

Answer : Not only the Indochinese and ASEAN countries want dialogue, but the socialist, non-aligned and Western countries also support dialogue. Only the reactionaries in the Beijing leadership are opposed to dialogue. They have vociferously rejected the proposal for dialogue of the Malaysian Foreign Minister which they claimed was made by Vietnam. However, the Indochinese and the ASEAN countries have yet to settle two questions, namely who will participate on each

side and what problems will be discussed. If both sides attach importance to the fundamental and lasting interests of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and strictly abide by the principles of equality and mutual respect these two questions could be solved.

Question : How is the security condition in Kampuchea that has made it possible to carry out another withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea next May ?

Answer : The security of Kampuchea was thoroughly examined at the Indochinese Summit in Vientiane.

The People's Republic of Kampuchea has grown to a point where it is possible to withdraw annually part of the Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea. However, because the threat from China remains, whether or not it is possible to withdraw all the Vietnamese volunteers still depends on the Chinese authorities.

Question : Beijing and Bangkok are fussy about the so-called Vietnamese attack on civilians at the refugee camps and about the so-called Vietnamese incursions into Thai territory. What is your comment ?

Answer : As a rule, those who commit wrong doings and are duly punished vociferate loudly to justify their acts and failure. Thailand has often claimed that the Pol Pot remnants and other Khmer reactionaries are stationed on the Kampuchean territory, not on Thai soil, while the latter claim that their lairs are "refugee camps" or "liberated zones". But, when the people's armed forces of Kampuchea, helped by the Vietnamese volunteers, attacked the Pol Pot and other reactionary Khmer forces, Beijing, Bangkok and some of their followers clamoured that Vietnam had attacked civilians and violated Thai territory.

Question : Is there any possibility for Bangkok to accept the proposals made in the communique of the three Indochinese Foreign Ministers on the establishment of a security zone on either side of the Kampuchean-Thai border and on the question of repatriating Kampuchean refugees ?

Answer : We hope that the Thai authorities adopt a far-sighted policy and accept our proposals or any other proposals that would bright about peace and stability along the Kampuchean-Thai border and settle the question of repatriating Kampuchean refugees, however, we must also anticipate the possibility of their rejecting those proposals.

If Bangkok rejects these proposals as well as other constructive proposals aimed at guaranteeing peace and security along the Kampuchean-Thai border that will prove that Thailand wants to maintain the present explosive situation at the border and does not want peace and security at its border. Yet, we are always optimistic.

Question : Why are the relations between the Indochinese countries and China not mentioned in the communique ?

Answer : The Conference has discussed this question and rejected China's five points. Since there is nothing new in China's policy the statements of the Summit Conference of the three Indochinese countries concerning China remain the common policy of the three Indochinese countries. As regards our relations with China, we sincerely wish for the normalization of relations with China on the basis of mutual respect".

II- THE U.S.S.R. SUPPORTS INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES,

VNA - A. Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, First Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, Foreign Minister, affirmed on April 16 the support of the U.S.S.R for the initiatives of the Vientiane Summit Conference and the Extraordinary Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the three Indochinese countries held recently in Phnom Penh.

On receiving the Ambassadors of Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam to the USSR, A. Gromyko expressed hopes that the ASEAN countries will respond positively to the proposals full of goodwill of the three Indochinese countries to begin the dialogue between the two groups of countries to make South East Asia a zone of peace, stability and cooperation.

Mr. Gromyko was pleased with the favourable situation in the three Indochinese countries, the rapid rebirth and the increase of the stability and the international prestige of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. Mr. Gromyko said the USSR will strengthen the cooperation with the three Indochinese countries and help them to construct and defend their countries in conformity with the spirit of the meetings between Yuri Andropov, and Heng Samrin, Kaysone Phomvihane and Le Duan in December 1982.

III- KAMPUCHEAN FOREIGN MINISTER HUNSEN HELD PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF VIETNAMESE VOLUNTEER TROOPS FROM KAMPUCHEA,

Hanoi, VNA, May 1 - Kampuchean Foreign Minister Hunsen said in Phnom Penh Sunday morning that the partial withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops to begin tomorrow is indicative of the Kampuchean peoples growing capability to defend themselves.

At a Press Conference held jointly with S.R.V. Ambassador Ngo Dien the Kampuchean Foreign Minister stressed that "without our considerable progress in national defence and construction we would not have agreed for Vietnam to take its troops home".

The gradual reduction of Vietnamese forces, Hunsen pointed out, is a clear expression of sincere cooperation on the part of Vietnam. "It also explodes false charges by China and the United States about Vietnamese occupation, domination and colonization" he told some 150 journalists, news photographers and cameramen from Vietnam, the United States, Switzerland, Britain, France, Belgium, Canada, Japan, Australia, Holland, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Cuba, the GDR, Bulgaria, Indonesia, and Hongkong,.

Hunsen quoting the decision of the Indochinese Summit last March concerning the gradual reduction of Vietnamese military strength in Kampuchea, called special attention to security on the Thai-Kampuchean border. "If Thailand can show that it has good intention this will be the basis for the withdrawal of more Vietnamese troops", he stated.

In connection with the Thai Foreign Minister's proposal for withdrawal of Vietnamese forces thirty kilometres from the Thai

border, Kampuchea pays much attention to Thailand's aspiration for peace and stability in Southeast Asia particularly for security on the common border with Kampuchea.

Our sympathy goes to this aspiration because security is also our people's concern, Hunsen affirmed. He said that Thailand's proposal should be studied, adding, only when we sit down together can we understand our problems "Thailand wants us to guarantee security for her. What would she do herself for Kampuchea's security?", he remarked.

Hunsen gave much about relation between Indochina and the ASEAN. He reiterated the People's Republic of Kampuchea's stand that it is the only authentic representative of the Kampuchean people at home and abroad, at the United Nations, in the Non-Aligned Movement, and any other interantional bodies or forums. "However", he specified, "we are ready not to let this point be an obstacle in order to promote dialogue between the Indochinese and ASEAN countries". Hunsen also pointed out that the Vietnamese gradual withdrawal would contribute towards this course.

There were also questions about possible dialogue with Norodom Sihanouk. To these, Foreign Minister Hunsen firmly stated : "There will be no dialogue either now or in the future". "By associating himself with the genocidal clique of Pol Pot," Hunsen made clear, "Sihanouk has committed political suicide, he does not represent anybody. He does not have any influence on the people. On the contrary he is the object of our condemnation".

Hunsen on the other hand reiterated his government lenient policy regarding those who have gone astray and who now wish to return to a new life. "Such people will be granted full citizen rights including the right to vote and stand for elections" he promised. /.

IV- "CUU LONG" GROUP OF DIVISIONS BEGINS WITHDRAWING FROM KAMPUCHEA,

(By VNA's special correspondent).

Hanoi, VNA, May 2 - The Cuu Long group of Divisions of the Vietnam People's Army today began withdrawing from Kampuchea, by joint decision of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The home-bound troops, as they enter Phnom Penh for the official farewell ceremony, are celebrated in the way only true friends and allies celebrate one another.

The column, led by battle-scarred armoured vehicles, drives along large streets lined with gorgeous flamboyant trees. Overhead are big streamers with slogans in the Khmer and Vietnamese languages expressing "Eternal Gratitude to the Party, Government, People and Army of Heroic Vietnam" and praising the "Unalloyed Spirit of Proletarian Internationalism" of the Vietnam People's Armed Forces.

On the pavements an estimated 40,000 (Forty thousand) people cheer wildly to the hearty response from the soldiers, the warm feeling generated by four years of shared hardships, of great services rendered and remembered, are reflected in the broad smiles, the longing eyes, the blinking tears.

To the men who are going, the moment must be unforgettable because it is unique when they first came at noon on January 7, 1979 there were no one to greet them, with the exception of fleeing remnants of the Pol Pot army.

Stretched in front of them in the glare of the midday sun was only a ghost city, petrified, with desert streets and vacant houses. What they see now is life again, life robust and bustling.

They have left behind, near their basecamps in the provinces, prospering villages. On their way to assembly points around the city yesterday, they encountered market - goers riding, in colourful clusters, on noisy motorcycle - drawn two-wheeled-carriages. The houses on either side of the road, once desolate with the haunting absence of owners, are now occupied by large, happy families.

Business quarters usually wake up in the early hours of the morning. Today they remain quiet although it is already 6.30 (Six thirty). The inhabitants have left to converge on the main pole of attraction - the Victory Monument - where the farewell ceremony will begin in half an hour.

Meanwhile, at the six entrances into the place children and the youth are singing and dancing to the whirring of movie cameras of curious foreigners.

At seven the advanced party pulls up around the Monument, in front of the official farewell party in which are seen Defence Minister Bou-Thong, Foreign Minister Hunsen, Mayor Keo Chanda, Vietnamese Ambassador Ngo Dien, and other members of the diplomatic corps.

The group commander, Colonel Vo Van Dan, alights from his command car and reports to Defence Minister Bou-Thong for permission to leave. The Minister wishes him and his unit good journey home and Colonel Dan takes leave of the other officials.

In the company of a Kampuchean army officer and of Ambassador Ngo Dien the Colonel makes a tour of the place acknowledging greetings of the masses.

The last embraces, the last handshakes, and the homewards journey begins. For over an hour the unit parades past the Monument in 240 vehicles.

The armoured forces led by a T.54 tank bearing number 973 - the same which led the liberation forces into Phnom Penh on July 7, 1979 rumbles North towards the Phnom Penh harbour and from there it will be ferried down the Tonle-Sap river to the new harbour in Ho Chi Minh City.

The infantry, ridding in big lorries, is headed for the Khbal Thnal (Ex-Monivong) bridge beyond which lies the East-West highway one.

Going with the troops there are nearly 150 foreign journalists, news photographers and cameramen who have gathered in Phnom Penh over the past few days, most of them travelling by bus or by jeep. A smaller number will provide coverage from the air.

It is regrettable that although the Press Departments of the Foreign Ministries of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, had extended invitations to them, a number of journalists, such as Xinhua (China), Tanjug (Yugoslavia), and those of the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, etc. did not come to observe the pull-out.

Like the first partial withdrawal in July last year, the present pull-out is a result of Kampuchea's growing strength. A recent interview with the Phnom Penh Bureau of the Vietnam News Agency, Kampuchean Defence Minister Bou-Thong pointed out that with "devoted assistance" from Vietnam, Laos, the Soviet Union and other fraternal countries and friends, his country had made "great achievements" in the military, economic, political and diplomatic fields.

It also, as pointed out by Kampuchean Foreign Minister Hunsen in a meeting with the press on Sunday, indicates Kampuchea's intention to gradually improve relations with Thailand and other ASEAN states on the basis of the South-East Asian resolution adopted by the Non-Aligned Summit in New Delhi.

As regards Vietnam, by further reducing its military strength in Kampuchea - this time by a group of divisions consisting of an infantry division and six attached brigades and regiments - it has made clear again its genuine desire for peace and stability in Southeast Asia. This attitude of goodwill is all the clearer considering the fact that China, far from giving any positive response is escalating armed provocations against Vietnam's Northern border./.

V- THAI FABRICATION REJECTED,

Hanoi, VNA, May 14 - According to a BBC broadcast on the evening of May 13. The General Secretary of the National Security Council of Thailand, Prasong Sumasiri, claimed that on May 3, Vietnam introduced 2.000 troops into Kampuchea and that part of the Vietnamese force which had pulled out of Kampuchea early this month is now stationed in Laos.

Vietnam News Agency is authorized to completely reject this malicious fabrication, which is aimed at casting doubt on the goodwill of Vietnam in withdrawing part of its troops from Kampuchea. It is also intended to undermine the present atmosphere of dialogue between the ASEAN and Indochinese countries and between Thailand and Vietnam. It can only serve the Beijing expansionists' scheme of provoking confrontation between the ASEAN and Indochinese countries".

VI- V.N.A.'s INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH,

Question : Could you give your opinion on the Thai Foreign Minister's proposal that the Vietnamese Armed Forces withdraw some 30 (thirty) kilometres from the Thai border ?

Answer : The Indochinese countries have put forth many proposals for restoring peace and security along the Kampuchean-Thai border. At the same time, they have also declared that they are ready to examine every proposal of other countries aimed at ensuring peace and security along the Kampuchean-Thai border.

Question : Could you give your opinion on Mr. Siddhi Savetasila's intention to visit Vietnam ?

Answer : In July 1982 Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetasila accepted the invitation to visit Vietnam, and he promised he would do this after the elections in Thailand. A visit to Vietnam by the Thai Foreign Minister has a very important significance, because it will contribute to promoting the mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of the two countries and consolidate peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

VII- FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC,

Hanoi, VNA, - The Nhan Dan welcomed, in a commentary, the Regional Conference on Peace and Stability in Asia and the Pacific held on 28 April in Ulan-Bator, the Mongolian Capital. The daily pointed out the importance of the event which demonstrated the unity and solidarity of the progressive forces as well as the strengthening of the struggle for peace and security of the peoples in the region.

The Conference laid bare the black designs of the American imperialists in collusion with the Chinese expansionists and the Japanese militarists, the feverish arms build-up of Washington in this part of the world.

The Reagan Administration, the Nhan Dan noted, has pressed Japan to increase its military budget, played "the Chinese card" and tried to create the Washington - Tokyo - Beijing axis to oppose the Soviet Union, Vietnam and the progressive forces in this region and in the world.

All these dark designs and acts demonstrate that the American imperialists are the dangerous enemy of the Asian and Pacific peoples. The Washington - Tokyo - Beijing collusion endangers peace and stability in this strategic region of the world.

The USSR has more than once put forward the important propositions to make the region of Asia, Pacific and Indian Ocean a zone of peace and free of nuclear arms. This reasonable and correct policy constitutes an important support to the struggle for peace and stability in the region. The constructive propositions advanced by Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea to promote dialogue with the ASEAN countries in order to build South East Asia a zone of peace, stability, friendship and co-operation make great contribution to the common struggle, concluded "Nhan Dan",.

VIII- FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH RECEIVES THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR,

Hanoi, VNA, May 7 - The Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach received J.P. Mcarthy, Australian Extraordinary and

Plenipotentiary Ambassador to Vietnam on May 7.

The Vietnamese Foreign Minister has asked the Australian diplomat to convey his invitation to Mr. Bill Hayden, the Australian Minister of External Affairs to pay an official visit to Vietnam in June 1983.

IX- FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN CONDEMNS SOUTH AFRICA'S
AGGRESSIVE ACT,

Hanoi, VNA, May 24 - A spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry today strongly condemned the South African apartheid regime for savagely bombing populated areas on the outskirts of Mozambique's capital on May 23.

In a statement, the Spokesman said :

"The South African aggressor's impertinent action grossly violated the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Mozambique, crudely infringed upon the principles of international law, and insolently challenge the progressive public opinion in Africa and the world over, the argument used by the South African dictators to justify their action are entirely absurd.

"The people and government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam vehemently condemn the aggressive designs and actions of the Pretoria regime against Mozambique and demand that it immediately end all these criminal undertakings.

"The Vietnamese people believe that the people of Mozambique and other front-line states in Southern Africa will certainly smash the South African apartheid regime's aggressive scheme and duly punish all its military adventures"./. .

X- FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NOTE CONDEMNING CHINA OF ITS
ARMED PROVOCATIONS,

Hanoi, VNA, April 12 - The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry on Tuesday sent the following note to the Chinese Foreign Ministry :

- The Chinese authorities have of late increased armed provocations and harassments in many Vietnamese Northern border provinces. On April 1, 1983, a representative of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry met a representative of the Chinese embassy in Hanoi and lodged a strong protest against the Chinese authorities for making 25 (two five) such armed provocations and incursions during the week from March 24-31, 1983, and demanded that they put an immediate end to those hostile actions.

"Disregarding Vietnam's stern condemnation, the Chinese authorities have since April 1, 1983 made over 20 (two zero) more armed provocations and incursions in the areas of marker post 92 in Tra Linh (Cao Bang), Na Sa and Hoang Mo (Quang Ninh), marker post 8 in Muong Khuong (Hoang Lien Son), height 1554 in Vi Xuyen (Ha Tuyen), Silo Lau (Lai Chau, Marker posts 111 and 112 in Ha Quang (Cao Bang), and marker posts 14-19 in Van Lang (Lang Son).

"On April 10, the Chinese Foreign Ministry sent a note to the Vietnamese Embassy in Beijing slanderously charging Vietnam with armed provocations and incursions into Chinese border areas. This is a common practice of China to cover up its recent criminal acts and mislead public opinion.

"Those hostile acts of the Chinese authorities have continued to strain the situation along the Vietnamese-Chinese border and threatened the security, life and normal work of Vietnamese people in Northern border provinces. Obviously, those acts are inimical to the creation of favourable atmosphere for normalizing the relations between Vietnam and China, and to the aspiration of the two peoples as well as the peoples in Southeast Asia and other parts of the world for peace and stability.

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam once again vehemently condemns the armed provocations and incursions conducted by the Chinese authorities in the Vietnamese-Chinese border areas, and resolutely demands that China stop these acts at once. The Chinese authorities must bear full responsibility for the consequences arising from their continued hostile acts against the Vietnamese people".

XI- FRESH CHINESE PROVOCATIONS DENOUNCED,

Hanoi, VNA, April 17 - A spokesman for the S.R.V Foreign Ministry has condemned China for having just caused a grave incident on the Sino-Vietnamese border.

In a statement released on Sunday (17/4/1983) the spokesman said that Chinese artillery, from 6.30 A.M. to 2.50 P.M. on Saturday, violently shelled hill 800 and the areas of marker posts 117 and 118 in Ha Quang district (Cao Bang province), the various hills in Dinh Lap district, the area of marker post 16 in Trang Dinh district, hill 583 and the areas of marker posts 17 and 18 in Van Lang district (Lang Son), and Vi Xuyen district (Ha Tuyen).

The spokesman said : "like the successive armed provocations and intrusions made recently by Chinese troops in many Vietnamese border areas which have been denounced by the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry in a note to the Chinese Foreign Ministry on April 12, the serious incident provoked by the Chinese authorities on April 16 has further worsened the situation on the common border in violation of Vietnam's sovereignty and threatening the security and normal life of Vietnamese citizens".

The spokesman noted that while blatantly provoking Vietnam by means of armed violence the Chinese authorities claimed that they were "retaliating" against Vietnamese "provocations" on the border. "this trick of thief crying" stop thief" cannot fool anybody", the spokesman pointed out. He also noted that the armed forces and civilians in these areas, acting in defence of Vietnam's territorial integrity and of their own lives and property, had countered the Chinese expansionists in time and had given them the punishment they deserved.

The spokesman continued : "the S.R.V. Foreign Ministry strongly condemns the Chinese authorities for these provocative actions and denounces them to the Chinese people and the world people at large. It firmly demands that the Chinese authorities put an immediate end to these actions. If they persist in this provocative course in defiance of the condemnation of the Vietnamese people, they will be held full responsible for all the consequences".

XII- KAMPUCHEA CONDEMNS NEW CHINESE PROVOCATION AGAINST VIETNAM,

Hanoi, VNA, April 21 - A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of Kampuchea tuesday issued a statement strongly condemning the new and serious Chinese provocations and slanders against Vietnam.

The statement says :

"Last week, the Beijing ruling circles stepped up their armed activities against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam by ordering their troops to shell the three Vietnamese provinces of Cao Bang, Lang Son and Ha Tuyen, committing successive violations against the territorial integrity of Vietnam and causing numerous losses in lives and property to the local population .

"Once again these barbarous acts bring out the expansionist character of the same criminals who have ordered the genocide in Kampuchea and caused instability in the region and tension along the Thai-Kampuchean border," the statement adds.

It notes that meanwhile Beijing slanderously charged Vietnam with provocation.

The statement recalls that China has rejected the Vietnamese proposals for peace negotiation and normalisation of relations between the two countries as well as the proposals full of goodwill of the three Indochinese countries, proposals that reflect the latter's commitment to peace and friendly relations with their neighbours, China in particular, and their sincere desire to put an end to the inimical atmosphere which has been prevailing in the region.

The government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the entire Kampuchean people unreservedly support the proposals full of goodwill of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam aimed at ending all border conflicts with China, improving the situation in the region and restoring the good relations between Vietnam and China", the statement concluded.

XIII- STATEMENT OF THE SPOKESMAN OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM,

"According to Radio Beijing April 25, 1983, while announcing names of islands and reefs in the East sea in a move to standardize the geographical names of China, the Chinese authorities have arrogantly given names to islands and reefs belonging to the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes of Vietnam.

"This is another gross violation of Vietnam's sovereignty and international law by the Chinese authorities. With this move, they intend to legalize their illegal occupation of the Hoang Sa archipelago and annex the Truong Sa archipelago of Vietnam, and eventually control the East sea in furtherance of their ambition for expansion to Southeast Asia. This move on the part of the Chinese authorities is completely illegal, and therefore, invalid.

Vietnam strongly rejects the Chinese authorities illegal act, reaffirms its sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes, and resolves to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity".

XIV- PAPER EXPOSES BEIJING'S LAND GRABBING AMBITION,

Hanoi, VNA, May 12 - NHAN DAN today lays bare the Chinese authorities' ambition in their recent publication of the so-called "standard names" of the islands in the East Sea, including the island of the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes belonging to Vietnam.

"In 1956, the paper recalls, "Beijing furtively occupied the islands in the North-Eastern part of Vietnam's Hoang Sa archipelago, in January 1974, with the green light given by U.S. imperialism, Beijing took the rest of the Hoang Sa by force. This act of aggression aroused strong indignation of the Vietnamese people. Ever since, in furtherance of their ambition to complete control of the islands in the East sea, they have on the one hand consolidated the positions they have illegally seized on the Hoang Sa archipelago and tried to make this occupation a fait accompli, and prepared public opinion for their invasion of the Truong Sa archipelago on the other".

Like the successive Chinese administrations decades ago, the paper points out, the ruling circles in Beijing now stage the farce of "giving standard names to the islands in the South China sea".

But on no account and under no label, Beijing give standard geographical names to the islands and cover up its greedy ambition and perfidious design.

Let Beijing not hope that by renaming again and again islands which belong to another country and have long-existing names, it can legalize its occupation of Vietnam's Hoang Sa archipelago or blot out the names of the islands and reefs of the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes already listed in the official documents of the Vietnamese state throughout the history of the latter's control and exploitation of these archipelagoes, Nhan Dan stresses.

"All crafty acts including giving names to islands, drawing maps... cannot certificate Beijing territorial integrity over these territories since it cannot be able to prove when and how the Chinese state began exercising its sovereignty over the "Xisha" and the "Nansha". Meanwhile, everyone knows that China has used force to brazenly occupy Vietnam's Hoang Sa archipelago, ", Nhan Dan says.

L A T E S T N E W S

**I- VNA COMMUNIQUE ON COMPLETION OF PARTIAL TROOPS
WITHDRAWAL FROM KAMPUCHEA,**

Hanoi, VNA, June 1 - Vietnam News Agency is authorized to issue the following communique :

In execution of the decision of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Cuu Long group of divisions of the Vietnam People's Army comprising an infantry division and six attached brigades and regiments on internationalist mission in Kampuchea began withdrawing its volunteers from Kampuchea on May 2, 1983 and completed the repatriation on May 31, 1983 as schedule.

With warm and moving sentiments the party, the state and the fraternal army and people of Kampuchea have valued very highly the services of the Cuu Long group of divisions in the discharge of its internationalist duty toward the Kampuchean people and have reserved for it the noblest words and deepest feelings.

**II- VIETNAMESE LEADERS' MESSAGE OF THANKS TO THE KAMPUCHEAN
LEADERS,**

Hanoi, VNA, June 1 - Le Duan, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, Truong Chinh President of the Council of State, Pham Van Dong Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Nguyen Huu Tho Chairman of the National Assembly on May 31 sent a joint message of thanks to Kampuchean leaders for their recent message on the occasion of the completion of a partial withdrawal of Vietnamese army volunteers from Kampuchea.

The message addresses to Heng-Samrin, General Secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and President of the Council of State, Chea-Sim Chairman of the National Assembly and Chan-Sy Chairman of the Council of Ministers said :

"Following the partial withdrawal effected in July 1982, the new withdrawal of Vietnamese army volunteers in May this year points up to the firm stability of the situation in Kampuchea and the growth of the Kampuchean armed forces in national construction and defence which has put to failure all schemes of the Beijing expansionists and hegemonists.

The withdrawal on the other hand shows the serious attitude and goodwill of the three Indochinese countries in their persistent efforts for peace and stability in Southeast Asia and friendship and cooperation in the region. Progressive people around the world have highly appraised the close solidarity and unbreakable special relationship between Vietnam and Kampuchea and between the three Indochinese countries as a whole".

Our people will never forget the fraternal Kampuchean peoples' great and effective support and assistance to their just cause, we take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, the government and the fraternal Kampuchean people, for their boundless love care for and trust in the Vietnamese volunteers and for having created all favourable conditions for them to fulfil their internationalist mission. The fact that the Party and Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea have conferred the Ang-Kor-Vat Order, the highest distinction of the People's Republic of Kampuchea on the Cuu Long group of divisions of the Vietnam People's Army spells out their high appreciation of the contributions made by the Vietnamese people in general and by the Vietnam army volunteers in particular to the Kampuchean revolution. It is also a fine expression for the militant solidarity and the special relationship between our two peoples.

The Vietnamese people are determined to continue doing their best to strengthen and develop the special friendship ties the militant solidarity and the all side cooperation between our two countries as well as among Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos.

Please accept our best wishes for good health and our finest fraternal sentiments"./.

THE END.