

EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
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- GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CPV, LE DUAN ON PRESENT
INTERNATIONAL SITUATION,

(Extract from his speech at the 9th Congress of the Hanoi Party
Committee, 2nd round, 11/6/1983),

The world is going through a period of very bitter struggle between the two systems . The US imperialists and their allies are frenziedly stepping up the arms race, causing a very dangerous situation. The catastrophe of a nuclear war is threatening peace and the very existence of mankind. The forthcoming Prague World Peace Assembly demonstrates the strong will and tremendous force of nations struggling to check the warmongering hands of the imperialists and push back and eventually eliminate the threat of a nuclear war. The fifty-five million Vietnamese fully unite with all peace militants in all continents. The Vietnamese people are determined to always make worthy contributions to the defence of world peace.

In Southeast Asia, the Chinese expansionists in collusion with the US imperialists and other reactionaries are frenziedly conducting a very wicked and intensive war of sabotage in many fields against the Vietnamese, Kampuchean and Laotian peoples. They hope to weaken and eventually to annex Vietnam and destroy the banner of national independence and socialism upheld by Vietnam. This strategic scheme of the Chinese reactionaries has not changed an iota. The US imperialists and other reactionaries are giving them a hand in an attempt to crush Vietnam.

The entire Party, people and armed forces of Vietnam must clearly realize that situation. We must build the strongest determination and create the greatest force to defeat this type of war. We have a heroic people's army. We have the combined strength of the system of socialist collective mastery. We have the special militant alliance of the three Indochinese countries. We are enjoying the all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union, the solidarity of other socialist countries and the support of revolutionary and progressive forces the world over. We will certainly win.

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

Hanoi, VNA, June 11 - Following is the full text of Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach's interview with V.N.A. on his recent tour of the Philippines and Thailand.

Question : How do you appraise the outcome of the talks in the Philippines and Thailand ?

Answer : The outcome is that the two sides have strengthened their mutual understanding, agreed to continue dialogue and create an atmosphere of mutual trust. The two sides also deemed it necessary to ease tension and agreed to give due consideration to each side's proposals.

These are only initial results, however in the context of confrontation over the past years between the ASEAN and Indochinese countries, they are considerable. They have met the general trend at present which favours dialogue in Southeast Asia in stead of confrontation which is not in the interest of the countries in the region. The Philippine Foreign Minister has come to the very judicious conclusion that the outcome of the talks will pace the way for constructive dialogues.

Question : Is it right that the Foreign Ministry of Thailand has announced that the only issue brought to the recent talks was the Kampuchean problem ?

Answer : In both Manila and Bangkok, the two sides discussed all question of common concern : the question of peace and stability in Southeast Asia, the question of peaceful co-existence between the ASEAN and Indochina, the Kampuchean issue, and questions concerning bilateral relations in both capitals. The Vietnamese side made it clear that the so-called Kampuchean issue is mainly a question concerning the Indochinese countries and China, not mainly a question concerning the Indochinese and ASEAN countries, on this question.

Question : Did the talks include discussion of Thailand's demand that Vietnam pull out its troops 30 kilometres from the Thai-Kampuchean border ?

Answer : The Vietnamese side has made it clear that if this was a condition, then Vietnam's answer would be no, but if this was a proposal for the talks, then Vietnam's answer would be to give it due consideration. The Thai side made known that this was not a condition. The Vietnamese side also clearly stated that all proposals must aim at ensuring peace and security equally for both sides and that Vietnam would not accept any proposals that would only benefit one side to the detriment of the other.

Question : Did the Vietnamese side make any new proposals ?

Answer : The Vietnamese side made it clear in Bangkok that the three Indochinese countries have been closely following Thailand's strategy toward them. Does Thailand desire peaceful co-existence with the three Indochinese countries ? or does it pursue the line it has followed over the past 40 years, namely to join outside powers in opposing the three Indochinese countries ? The three Indochinese countries are striving for peaceful co-existence with Thailand, while getting ready to cope with the worst eventuality. The Thai side affirmed that Thailand is an independent country and that it wishes to live in peace with the Indochinese nations.

The Vietnamese side also presented a clear picture of different eventualities :

a/. Confrontation between Thailand and the three Indochinese countries will continue for a long time.

b/. This state of confrontation will escalate to a degree beyond the control of both sides and bring about uncalculable grave consequences.

c/. Thailand and the three Indochinese countries pledged themselves, in stead-fast forms, not to commit aggression against each other, not to interfere in each other's internal affairs, to

respect each other's independence and sovereignty, to settle all disputes through negotiations, to live in peace and co-operate with each other. At the same time the two sides agree on drastic measures aimed at ensuring peace and security equally for both sides in the Thailand-Kampuchean border areas.

d/. Pending the settlement of disputes, the two sides should agree on measures to enhance mutual understanding and mutual trust, reduce suspicion and ease tension between the two sides so as to prevent the escalation of the present situations and to bring' it under control.

Peace is necessary to Vietnam and the other two Indochinese countries, which have experienced by more than thirty years of devastating war, treasuring their own independence, they respect the independence of other countries, first of all their neighbours. For these reasons, the Vietnamese side holds that the best possibility to choose is (c) or, at least, (d), and that both sides should try to do away with possibilities (b) and (a).

Question : Could you please specify Vietnamese concrete proposals ?

Answer : Both sides have made concrete proposals. They promised to give them due consideration and agreed not to make public the content of these proposal.

Question : Did the Vietnamese side discuss with the Philippines the question of U.S. military bases in that country ?

Answer : The Philippine side reiterated the joint statement of September 1978 between President Marcos and Premier Phan Van Dong in which the two countries pledged themselves not to let foreign countries use their respective territory for direct or indirect aggression against the other country.

Question : What is your general impression about the result of your recent visit to the two countries ?

Answer : We are very pleased./.

- COMMENTARY OF THE VOICE OF VIETNAM ON THE CHINESE MASS MEDIA'S DISTORTION OF THE VISIT TO THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES BY FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH,

China's criticism of Vietnam's Foreign Minister's recent visit to the Philippines and Thailand is not difficult to understand. Because the result of his visits is not to Chinese liking, it promotes the trend towards dialogue in the region.

During his talks with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach in Manila, the Philippines' Foreign Minister Carlos Romulo agreed to continue dialogue. He said it would further mutual understanding about peace and security in the region. The two sides believed that there must be a continual dialogue. Before, during and after Mr. Thach's visit, the Chinese mass media raised a big fuss about Vietnam's threat and claimed that his visit was aimed at misleading ASEAN countries. The Philippines' Foreign Minister made it clear on June 6th that Mr. Thach's visit was important, not only to bilateral relations but also to the interests of peace and cooperation in the region. After receiving Mr. Thach on June 9th, the Philippines' President, Mr. Ferdinand Marcos said that the Vietnamese people had no intention of hostility or aggression against any country. The Commander of the 4th National Corps of the Thai Army, Lieutenant General Houngilanol said he believed that Vietnam would not attack Thailand. "It is China that has been creating tension and pushing Vietnam and ASEAN into a confrontation", he pointed out.

Commenting on China's criticism of Mr. Thach's visit, the TASS News Agency on June 12th held that China was alarmed at Vietnam's initiative when the coalition of the Democratic Kampuchea, the disguise of Pol Pot clique was facing serious difficulty. In fact, the Kampuchean issue is the problem between the Indochinese countries and China.

Who, if not the reactionaries in the Peking leadership, encouraged their henchmen, the Pol Pot genocidal clique to kill as many as more than three million Kampuchean people.

Who, if not the Peking hegemonists, used the Pol Pot troops to launch a war of aggression against Vietnam at the South-Western border area.

At present, the Chinese authorities are fostering, arming, and commanding Pol Pot remnants and other Khmer reactionaries at the Kampuchean-Thai border area to sabotage the peaceful reconstruction of the Kampuchean people.

They are colluding with the U.S. imperialists and other reactionary forces to carry out a sabotage war against the three Indochinese countries in all fields, military, political, diplomatic, economic, cultural and psychological.

In the face of extermination, the Kampuchean people did ask Vietnam for assistance to overthrow the genocidal regime. In so doing they have proved themselves worthy to exist in independence and freedom.

Now, to cope with the threat from China, they insist on keeping a number of units of Vietnamese army volunteers in Kampuchea. This legitimate demand of the Kampuchean people has been recognized by international law. Therefore China's threat to the security of Kampuchea and Vietnam is the reason for Vietnamese volunteers staying in Kampuchea. Logically speaking, that threat must be removed first and foremost before the withdrawal of all Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea. It is reasonable enough to say that the Kampuchean issue is essentially a problem between Indochinese countries and China.

Although there remain differences over this issue between Indochinese and ASEAN countries, it is not a problem between these two groups of countries. By putting the ASEAN countries in confrontation with Indochinese countries, the Chinese authorities aim at many targets. On the one hand, they want to get the ASEAN countries actually involved in opposing Indochinese countries to weaken them and then subjugate them, one after another. On the other hand, they want to shirk their responsibility for causing disturbances and tension in the region.

Over the past few years, the Chinese authorities have said that they wanted to find solution to the Kampuchean problem, but still fail to make any satisfactory proposal.

On the contrary, they have been stepping up their sabotage war against the Indochinese countries, aggravating further the problem.

Now they demand the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea without giving up their sabotage war against Kampuchea and Vietnam.

Our constant stand is to solve all problems in relations with other countries through negotiations on the basis of equality, mutual benefit, non-imposition of one side's view on the other and respect for each other's legitimate interests.

In relations with the People's Republic of China we also maintain that stand and reaffirm that all our proposals remain valid.

-COMMENTARY OF THE VOICE OF VIET NAM :

ASEAN COMMUNIQUE LACKS OBJECTIVITY,

The Joint Communiqué of the 16th meeting of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers contains 65 points of which 20 points are directly related to the Indochinese countries but it says nothing about the threat posed by China to the security of other countries in the region. Observers seem to be very disappointed about the lack of objectivity shown by the ASEAN countries. The latter have deliberately shut their eyes to a simple fact recognized by public opinion in recent years, that Chinese expansionism and hegemonism are a direct and permanent threat to all nations in Southeast Asia. In analysing the main points of the Joint Communiqué we can arrive at this general conclusion : The Bangkok meeting was held under the evil influence of the Peking authorities. The ASEAN countries, hoodwinked and pressurized by China, continue with their wrong analysis of the situation.

Dealing with the presence of Vietnamese army volunteers in Kampuchea they have not dared to refer to the root cause, namely, the Chinese use of Khmer reactionaries to oppose the revival of the Kampuchean people and to threaten the security of Vietnam. They have demanded the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea but have ignored a vital condition made by the Indochinese countries that China must give up all plots of aggression and annexation against the three Indochinese countries. What a regrettable mistake ! unless China gives up its hostile policy against the Indochinese countries, the security of these countries cannot be ensured. Thus the withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea is impossible. We believe that the ASEAN countries would have done the same had they been in our position. Now it is very obvious to say that the Kampuchean issue is essentially a problem between China and the Indochinese countries, not between the ASEAN and Indochinese countries, although there remain differences over this issue between the two groups of countries.

In the Joint Communiqué the ASEAN countries have said that they fully support the Thai Foreign Minister's proposal for a 18-mile pull-back of Vietnamese forces from the Thai-Kampuchean border as the first step towards his visit to Vietnam. Undoubtedly, this is a precondition that we cannot accept. It should be recalled

that during his talks with the Vietnamese Foreign Minister in Bangkok earlier this month Siddhi Savetsila did not put forward this proposal as a precondition. The Foreign Ministers of some other ASEAN countries also shared this view. Only the Peking authorities considered the Thai Foreign Minister's proposal as a precondition. Meanwhile in the Joint Communique the ASEAN countries have talked in a different way and have made the proposal into a condition. This shows how they have been pressurized by China and are collaborating with the latter in using the genocidal Pol Pot clique and other Khmer reactionaries to oppose the peaceful reconstruction of the Kampuchean people. Over the past four years, the Chinese expansionists, helped by pro-Peking elements in the Thai leadership, have failed in their attempt to provide through military means shelter for Pol Pot remnant troops and other Khmer reactionaries in Kampuchea. Now others also want to help China provide shelter for these criminals through political and diplomatic means. People wonder how this could be successful. Vietnam has clearly stated that if Thailand and other ASEAN countries consider Mr. Siddhi's proposal as a precondition for talks, then the three Indochinese countries will categorically reject it. If it is a proposal for talks we will seriously consider it together with other proposals concerning peace and stability in South East Asia. This is fair and reasonable.

In their Communique the ASEAN countries also have gone along with Peking's and Washington's groundless charge that Vietnam has moved part of its population to Kampuchea altering the latter's population and colonizing it. This charge is nothing but Peking's and Washington's deceptive propaganda. If the ASEAN countries continue to tail after China in slandering Vietnam they will demonstrate their lack of sincerity and goodwill about seeking peace and security for this region.

The Communique of the Bangkok meeting has also spoken of taking into consideration the security and interests of other countries in this region. However, the ASEAN countries under Peking's pressure have demanded that the Indochinese countries accept the condition, detrimental to their security, which was expounded at the so-called "international conference on Kampuchea". So it is difficult to say

that the ASEAN countries are sincere about solving the problem and they should think about this.

Although the Joint Communique of the Bangkok meeting is negative in general, the ASEAN countries have had to take note of Vietnam's partial troop withdrawal from Kampuchea. In fact, in 1982 Vietnam pulled part of its volunteer army out of Kampuchea and in 1983 it conducted the second pull-out of troops. This act full of goodwill has been warmly welcomed by world public opinion. It is regrettable that Thailand and other ASEAN countries have not yet made any gesture to reciprocate Vietnam's goodwill. On the contrary, pressurized by Peking they have tried to impose more conditions on the Indochinese countries for a dialogue. This attitude is unreasonable and must be criticized. Our policy is clear and consistent. We sincerely wish to solve problems in our relations with other countries through talks and negotiations. We hold that the trend towards dialogue that has begun following on our initiatives and our patience are the first encouraging steps that should be continued. Whenever differences occur the best way is to sit down and make concrete proposals on the basis of respect for each other's legitimate interests and to narrow the gap between differences and thus solve them in a fair and reasonable manner.

- RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND CHINA,

In a commentary of June 11, the daily newspaper "Nhan Dan" denied the allegations advanced by Chinese Premier, Zhao Ziyang who in his report presented to the People's National Congress tried to blame the Vietnamese Party for the deterioration of relations between the two countries.

Once more, notes the newspaper, Peking utters slanders against Vietnam at the very moment when it is itself indicating fresh actions aimed at aggravating the situation and weakening Vietnam.

Zhao Ziyang cannot blot out the crimes committed by China against the Vietnamese people such as the occupation of the Hoang Sa archipelago which is an integral part of Vietnamese territory. Still fresh in our memory are the many hostile acts of the Zhong Nanhai leaders detrimental to Vietnam : invasion of Vietnam from the South-Western frontier launched by the Pol Pot genocidal clique of Kampuchea, staging of "the Hoa incident", freezing of aid to Vietnam, withdrawal of Chinese specialists from Vietnam and lastly the barbarous war of aggression against Vietnam along the whole of the Northern border in February 1979.

The Chinese expansionists with consummate treachery, continues the paper, now intensify their war of sabotage in all regions of Vietnam. During the month of May, there was a recrudescence of provocations. Chinese commando units and spies infiltrated across the Northern border of Vietnam to carry out acts of sabotage. Is it possible that the Chinese authorities want to improve their relations with Vietnam by these actions ?

The strategy and tactics adopted by Peking towards Vietnam and the other Indochinese countries remain unchanged.

This is not the moment for us to relax our vigilance, concludes the newspaper Nhan Dan as it emphasises how necessary it is to frustrate every least manoeuvre of Chinese reaction.

- 17TH PROVISIONAL SESSION OF THE MEKONG RIVER,

The 17th Session of the Provisional Committee of Mekong took place from June 2 to 5 in Bangkok.

The participants discussed economico-technological projects including research into the main course and large delta outlet streams of the Mekong river as well as many diversified organizational problems.

The participants stated that following the absence of the Kampuchean member, the construction of the major works cannot be decided. Therefore, the efforts are concentrated on the research into the problems concerning the main stream covering the work at Pamong, and the assesment of the effect of this project on the delta regions, the study of the possibility of building medium and large-scale hydro-electric projects on the outlet streams passing through Laos territory.

The discussions held in a spirit of active cooperation, demonstrated the attachment of each party to the work of exploiting and developing the Mekong into the framework of a South East Asia of peace, stability, friendship and cooperation welcomed by all the peoples of the region.

- FOREIGN TRADE SINCE NATIONAL REUNIFICATION : PERSPECTIVES

While Vietnamese exports increased rapidly in 1976-1977 due to the exploitation of the potentials of the whole country and the development of contracts with foreign countries, the three following years (1977-1980) saw stagnation due to errors and shortcomings in economic management, especially concerning sources of export products.

Since the 6th Plenum of the Central Committee (August 1979) and the promulgation of new state rules on foreign trade, tangible progress has been recorded, notably in 1982 with regard to agricultural and handicraft products. In 1982 the volume of exports increased by 31% compared with 1981 and by 58% compared with 1980. The volume of processed and semi-processed agricultural products

exported increased four times compared with 1976, and that of raw farm products doubled compared with 1980, a record year so far for this line of exports.

However, our exports still present weaknesses in scope, composition and quality. A great imbalance subsists between imports and exports. Finally, with regard to imported products, planning, management and distribution still leave much to be desired.

The plan for 1983 and for the period 1983-1985 calls for the stepping up of our exports and, on that basis, an increase of our imports in order to satisfy the requirements of national construction.

In future emphasis would be laid on raw agricultural products, processed and semi-processed agricultural products, consumer goods, handicraft items, forest, aquatic and marine products, and some products of heavy industry and some kinds of ores.

The target for 1983 is to increase the value of our exports by 47% compared with 1982 so that by late 1985 it would be 2.6 times that attained during the 1976-1980 five-year plan.

- CHEMICAL INDUSTRY AT THE SERVICE OF AGRICULTURE,

The first task of chemical industry in 1983 is to produce fertilizers for agriculture.

In 1982 the Lam Thao super-phosphates works was praised for its contribution to agricultural development. In 1983 its target is 240,000 tons, i.e., a 21.8% increase over 1982. Its output may attain 350,000-400,000 tons in two or three years time.

Production of top-grade apatite in the Hoang Lien Son mines will surpass last years output by 40% and that of second-grade ore will double. Railway transport will match the efforts of the mines in carrying the apatite to the processing plants.

There will also be emphasis on the production of insecticides. The state insecticide company will co-operate with other branches in securing the necessary foreign exchange for the import of raw materials.

THE END