

ADDRESS BY MR. NGUYEN CO THACH,
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
OF VIETNAM TO THE 38TH SESSION OF THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(October 7, 1983)

Mr. President,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to extend to you, Mr. President, our warmest congratulations on your election to the high office of the 38th Session of the U.N. General Assembly. Your election reflects this Assembly's great appreciation of your prestige, talent and rich experience, and the role played by Panama and Latin America in the cause of peace and independence in the world.

I sincerely appreciate the important contributions made by your predecessor, Mr. Imre Hollai, to the achievements of the General Assembly during the past year under very complex circumstances. These achievements were made possible by his successful combination of principle and flexibility in guiding our work.

Throughout the last year, the Secretary General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar has worked very actively and taken various initiatives to promote better understanding and rapprochement between parties in disputes and conflicts over today's burning issues. These are important contributions to the betterment of the international atmosphere.

I warmly felicitate Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, for having brought to this forum, as Chairperson of the Non-aligned Movement, the New Delhi Message of the 7th Summit of the non-aligned countries, and for her endeavours to contribute to the progress of this Session in the interest of peace, independence, democracy and social progress in the world.

Finally, I warmly congratulate Saint Christopher and Nevis on her recent admission to the United Nations.

Mr. President,

The 38th Session of the U.N. General Assembly takes place at a time when tensions in the world have seriously aggravated. The terrible threat posed by huge nuclear arsenals hovers over the whole of mankind. The arms-race has been accelerated to an extent unknown in history, and U.S. - Soviet relations have become very strained.

Hot spots in various parts of the world, especially in Central America and Lebanon, are highly explosive. Military manoeuvres and shows of force occur everywhere, particularly in Central America, the Middle East and the Pacific, along with intervention, threats to "teach a second lesson", and threats of aggression against the independence and sovereignty of nations.

The world economic crisis has become increasingly serious. Trade and monetary wars have fiercely erupted. Foreign debts have escalated to an extent unprecedented in developing countries, leading many of them almost to the point of desperation. The gap between developed and developing countries has been increasingly widened while all negotiations to settle problems of world economic relations remain deadlocked.

The three aspects of the world situation mentioned above are closely linked and interrelated, causing a very serious, sensitive and explosive situation. Just one irresponsible act of a State leader can lead the world into a global crisis with unpredictable consequences. This situation, therefore, demands that world leaders show a high sense of responsibility for peace and the security of nations,

Mr. President,

Until the end of last August, mankind had witnessed small progress in U.S. - Soviet relations, and placed much hope on the meetings between U.S. and Soviet leaders. Suddenly, the South Korean Airline incident took place, causing a serious global crisis, subverting the U.S. - Soviet meetings, and confronting the 38th Session of the U.N. General Assembly with a frantic cold war atmosphere. It is regrettable that civilians were killed in this incident. These civilians have been used to camouflage a large-scale espionage mission, and their death has been used for political ends. For people of conscience and sanity, a question arises :

Why have the U.S. authorities reacted so quickly with a world-wide frenzied campaign, leading mankind onto the brink of a global crisis ?

We may recall that the "Tonkin Gulf incident" of August 1964 was fabricated and used as a pretext for launching aggression against Vietnam. This deceitful act was exposed in the Pentagon Papers made public in 1968. It is, therefore, quite understandable that in the hysterical atmosphere over the K.A.L. incident, the U.S. Congress has passed the biggest military budget ever adopted in peace time.

True; to cause tension and crisis is the policy pursued by the United States in furtherance of its global strategy. It has concluded that the relaxation of tension in the 70's was not beneficial to the United States. Since the late 70's, the U.S. has pursued a policy of causing tension, undermining East-West detente and escalating the arms-race, in order to reap the maximum political and economic benefit. It is trying to restore the hysterical anti-communist atmosphere, and increase global tension, thus bringing the world back to the cold war brinkmanship of the 50's.

In the economic field, the U.S. authorities are making every effort to maintain the existing unfair international economic order. They have opposed North-South global negotiations, wrecked the 6th UNCTAD and refused to sign the Convention on the law of the sea. To the extent the U.S. economy has recovered, it has accomplished this recovery on the backs of all the other countries.

Obviously, the U.S. does not want to embark upon the path of negotiation to eliminate the inequality in international economic relations. It wants only to use its economic superiority to force other countries to accede to the existing international economic order.

In the political and social fields, who is protecting the dictatorial, pro-U.S. regimes in the world and opposing peoples' struggle for the elimination of social injustice, for independence and freedom ? Who supports Israel against the Palestinian people ? Who backs the Apartheid regime against the South African, Namibian peoples, Angola, Mozambique and other frontline states ? Who supports the blood - thirsty Junta of Pinochet against the Chilean people ? Who supports the blood-thirsty Junta of Salvador against the Salvadorean people ? Who is threatening the Republic of Cuba, the Republic of Nicaragua, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya ?

The answer to these questions is crystal clear;

The U.S. policy of promoting its own political and economic interests in the world at the expense of other countries, will certainly face strong opposition.

But the United States does not want to find a negotiated solution to the political and economic problems in the world on the basis of equality and respect for others' independence and sovereignty. Its basic policy, which found its most vivid expression in the Vietnam war, is "the stick and the carrot", utilizing mainly the stick.

The United States ranks first in terms of gross national product (G.N.P.) in the world. The Soviet Union ranks second; and its G.N.P. accounts for only 60% to 70% of that of the United States. Given its economic and technological superiority, only the United States can allocate a large portion of its G.N.P. to military expenditures in order to obtain military superiority in the world. Its 1984 military budget is the largest ever in peace time and in the world. With the much lower GNP's, other countries cannot allocate such a large budget as the United States to the arms race. The United States has now created the myth of "Soviet military superiority", just as it invented the so-called "missile gap" in the early 60's Congress into irrational increases in military expenditures.

It is obvious that the accelerated arms race represents the U.S. long-standing policy, even in the 50's when the United States had a nuclear monopoly and superiority. That is the reason why talks on the limitation and reduction of strategic weapons and intermediate missiles remain at a standstill. This policy is also at the root of world tension.

Mr. President,

With the existing nuclear arsenals and the accelerated arms-race, mankind is now standing at the brink of extermination.

Almost all speeches made during the general debate, have highlighted the international community's deepest concern about the imperative need to prevent the nuclear arms-race from getting out of control and from reaching the point of no return.

Strengthening their solidarity and determination to defend peace, the socialist countries, non-aligned countries, peace loving governments, and the world people as a whole, will certainly be able to repel the danger of a nuclear war of extermination. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam fully supports their proposals

aimed at putting an end to the arms-race, promoting disarmament, preventing a nuclear war and defending world peace.

While resolutely struggling against a new world war, the people of various countries must also struggle against local wars. The world people have, since the end of World War II, enjoyed the longest-lasting peace of this century. However, in spite of the absence of world war for nearly 40 years, the greatest amount of bombs and ammunition in the 20th century has been used against the Asian, African and Latin American peoples' struggles for independence and freedom. The bombs and ammunition used in the Vietnam war alone has far exceeded the amount used during the first and second world wars combined; not to mention the weapons used in the aggressive war against Korea, in the Israeli war against the Arab people and in the racist Pretoria regime's oppression of the South African and Namibian peoples and aggression against the frontline states. What is particularly dangerous is that the U.S. authorities have used their absolute military superiority to intimidate, threaten, directly intervene in, and invade those countries that have been struggling for independence and freedom, but are militarily many times weaker than the United States.

At the end of the Vietnam war, the United States declared that it would not get involved in a second Vietnam. But in reality, it is embarking on that very path. After the Korean war, it stated that it would not get involved in another war in continental Asia. However, only ten years later, it embarked upon the Vietnam war, a war in continental Asia more bloody than the Korean war. Ten years after the end of the Vietnam war, the U.S. authorities are now repeating that which led to the Vietnam war.

In the early 60's the U.S. Administration slanderously accused Vietnam of being a "tool" of the Soviet Union and China, and claimed that the Vietnamese people's struggle for independence and freedom was "communist expansion". The U.S. considered it its duties to defend the "free world". Today, it also regards the struggle for independence and freedom waged by the peoples of Nicaragua, El Salvador and other countries in Central America and the Caribbean as "communist expansion" and "East-West rivalry". The U.S. Department of Defence declared that a military victory must be scored, and the line of the free world in Central America be clearly marked out.

It is obvious that the fabrication of "communist aggression" is aimed at distorting the nature of the Central American people's struggle for independence and freedom, and at finding pretexts for intervention and aggression. Unfortunately, this has also been echoed by the Chinese authorities who claim that the two super-powers are attempting to exercise their rivalry and confrontation through the situation in Central America.

The Viet Nam war has been strongly condemned by public opinion in the world and even in the United States. However, attempts are being made in the United States to portray the Viet Nam war as a "noble cause". All this aims at inciting chauvinism and pushing American youth to fight a second Viet Nam war.

20 years ago, the U.S. authorities started by giving military aid to the puppet regime in South Viet Nam, and sending military advisors to train the puppet army. They sent the 7th Fleet to patrol and carry out manoeuvres along Vietnam's coast. The same thing is now taking place in Central America.

They concocted the "Tonkin gulf Incident" and used it as a pretext to bomb North Vietnam and send airforce and missile units to South Vietnam. Then, they argued that the U.S. marines had to be sent to South Vietnam to protect U.S. air and missile bases. Then came the argument that U.S. marines had the right to defend themselves if attacked. And then they had the right to attack whoever and whatever they considered potential dangers to them. That is the logic of military escalation that led the United States to the bloody war in Vietnam. Each of these scenarios is being repeated in Central America and Lebanon.

It is, therefore, necessary to stop the intervention and aggression in Central America, the Middle East and other parts of the world.

Vietnam fully supports the just struggles of Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada, Suriname, and of the peoples of El Salvador, Puerto Rico and Latin American countries for peace, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. It welcomes Nicaragua's 6-point proposal and the efforts by the Contadora group, aimed at peacefully settling the problems in Central America.

Vietnam fully supports the struggle of the Arab people and the Palestinian people under the leadership of their legitimate representative, the P.L.O., against Israeli aggression. We fully support the struggle of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia led by the A.N.C. and the SWAPO respectively and the struggle of Angola, Mozambique and other frontline states, against the South African Apartheid regime. We fully support the struggle of the people of Western Sahara under the leadership of the Polisario, for their right to self-determination.

We fully support the struggle of the Korean people for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea, and for the peaceful reunification of their country. We strongly support the struggle of the people of Cyprus to recover their territorial sovereignty. We fully support the struggle of the Afghan people for the defence of the fruits of their April Revolution.

Mr. President,

Southeast Asia is the only place on the earth which has been torn apart by successive wars in the last forty years, with the Vietnam war being the bloodiest. At present, it still enjoys no peace and stability. This situation is deeply rooted in history.

For two thousand years, Chinese administrations have considered Southeast Asia a part of its traditional sphere of influence, with Vietnam the main object of its conquest.

In the 13th century, Thai people moved southward from Southern China, in the process invading most of the Khmer Kingdom of the Angkor period and the Kingdom of Laos. They set up the present-day Kingdom of Thailand. For the last millenium, Thailand has always seen Kampuchea and Laos as its vassal states and has invaded Vietnam three times.

In the last forty years, Thailand has acted as the principal ally of militarism, colonialism and imperialism against the three Indochinese countries.

For that same period of time, China had always sought to subjugate the three countries; in so doing it compromised with France and the United States against the independence and sovereignty of the Indochinese countries.

For the last five years, China and Thailand, the traditional expansionists and hegemonists with designs on the Indochinese countries, have colluded with each other and with the United States and Japan, the former aggressors of Indochina to jointly oppose the Indochinese countries.

The three Indochinese countries are the victims of aggression. As history shows, they have never invaded China, or Thailand, or any other country. Any problems which may exist between the three countries as result of historical factors are trivial compared with the historical crimes committed by China and Thailand against them. The last hundred years in particular indicate that the three peoples, who shared the same fate in being colonised, being victimised by aggression and by Pol Pot, have united together. They have assisted one another in regaining their respective independence and have helped the Kampuchean people save themselves from genocide under Pol Pot.

The Vietnamese volunteer troops have come to Kampuchea on three occasions, fighting alongside the people there against the colonialists, the imperialists and the genocidal Pol Pot gang - China's henchmen. And they have twice withdrawn from Kampuchea. This time, Vietnam will also withdraw all its volunteer troops once the security of the People's Republic of Kampuchea is assured.

The crux of the Kampuchea issue, as well as of the question of peace and stability in Southeast Asia lies in China's use of Pol Pot and in its collusion with Thailand against the Indochinese countries. In the last Vietnam war of aggression, the GIs led the aggression, followed by the Thai and South Korean troops. The United States was thereby clearly exposed as the aggressor. Now, however, China hides its face, staying behind the scenes. It uses Pol Pot and pits the ASEAN nations, with Thailand as the front-runner, against the three countries. It is an open secret that Pol Pot is a henchman bred and nurtured by China. China is, at present, the main obstacle to a peaceful solution in Southeast Asia.

To cover up its expansionism and hegemonism in Southeast Asia, China fabricated the so-called "expansionism" of the Soviet Union and Vietnam in the region. After Vietnam and Kampuchea undertook two yearly partial withdrawals of the Vietnamese volunteer troops from Kampuchea, the Beijing authorities again spread the allegation that Vietnam is sending "massive numbers of settlers" into this country in an attempt to "Vietnamise" Kampuchea. Everyone knows that the number of Vietnamese residents in Kampuchea after the two massacres by Lon Nol and by Pol Pot was reduced to one-tenth of those who had previously lived in Kampuchea, an even smaller number than the number of the Hua Chiao (people of Chinese origin) presently in that country. It's also known there are over twenty million Hua Chiao in Southeast Asia. These people control most of the economies of these countries and there exists a country where the Hua Chiao make up the overwhelming majority of the population. So the Chinese threat not only comes from mainland China but from within the Southeast Asian countries as well.

Any solution at all must lead to the termination of the state of affairs in which the Indochinese countries, for the last forty years, have always been the victim of aggression and intervention. It must be replaced by the assurance of a long-lasting peace, by respect for the independence and sovereignty of the countries in Southeast Asia and by an end to outside interference in their affairs. A solution that favors only one side will neither settle anything nor bring about peace and stability in the region. Such a solution is unacceptable.

The three Indochinese countries are of the view that :

a) The total withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer troops from Kampuchea will be carried out in concurrent with the total elimination of the threat from China and their use of Pol Pot to try to impede the recovery of the Kampuchean people, the end of the use of Thai territory against the Indochinese countries; it also goes along with the disarming of the Polpotists and the punishment of the genocidal Pol Pot criminals. The People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have decided on yearly partial withdrawals and will effect a total withdrawal once the peace and security of Kampuchea is assured.

b) The Indochinese countries and China must sign a treaty of non-aggression and non-interference in each other's affairs. The two groups of the Indochinese and ASEAN countries will agree on establishing a zone of peace and stability in Southeast Asia, based on ASEAN's ZOPFAN proposal and that of the Indochinese countries.

c) All countries must respect the sovereignty of the Kampuchean people and their right to determine their own affairs.

d) All sides should discuss international guarantees to assure the implementation of the agreements they will have reached.

ASEAN's position demands that Vietnam unilaterally withdraw all its volunteer troops from Kampuchea while China, Thailand and Pol Pot are free to act. This means that the Pol Pot gang, recognised by the U.N. as the legal government, would come back to take control of Kampuchea and reimpose on the Kampuchean people the yoke of genocide. And Pol Pot would continue to serve as China's instrument in carrying out its hegemonist policy against the Indochinese countries. For the past forty years in Southeast Asia, Thailand has allied itself with various foreign countries and its territory has been used by those countries as a staging base for their aggression and intervention against the Indochinese countries. The Indochinese countries in general and Kampuchea in particular have fallen victim to this aggression and intervention for the last forty years. The ASEAN countries demand that Kampuchea be "neutralised" while Thailand and some other ASEAN countries are still used in the service of aggression and intervention against the Indochinese countries. It obviously is aimed at tying the victim's hands while encouraging the aggressor. Such a demand is again unacceptable.

From 1945 to 1975, the foreign countries have unleashed thirty years of war against the struggle of the Indochinese countries for independence and freedom. But they were doomed to failure. In the last five years, China, in collusion with the United States and Thailand, has forced the ASEAN countries into a policy of confrontation, bringing pressure in all military, economic and diplomatic fields to bear on the Indochinese countries in an attempt to impose a solution beneficial only to China, the United States and other ASEAN countries. This policy has jeopardised peace and stability in Southeast Asia. It has further sharpened the memory of their crimes against the Indochinese peoples throughout their history as well as in the last forty years. Again this policy has failed. It is now high time to end the confrontation and to negotiate a peaceful settlement of all the differences on the basis of equality and mutual respect. The Indochinese countries are pleased to note the gradual steps toward a dialogue between the ASEAN and Indochinese countries and the desire by both sides to end the confrontation and to enter into negotiations. Regrettably only China rejects all the proposals to carry out negotiations to put an end to the conflict between China and Vietnam. It also rejects the proposals for signing treaties of non-aggression and non-interference between the three Indochinese countries and China. China has invaded Vietnam; it now continues threatening to "teach Vietnam a second lesson". This is an expression of China's hegemonism ! In our time, all countries, big or small, are equal - there are neither "master" and "pupil" countries nor "father" and "son" countries. Such concepts are only the wild dream of former Chinese emperors ! China claims that the so-called "Kampuchea issue" is a matter between Vietnam and ASEAN. If this is so, why does it oppose their engaging in dialogue ? If this is so, why does it consider the Kampuchea issue the main obstacle to Sino-Soviet relations and demand to discuss the issue with the Soviet Union, instead of leaving it for the ASEAN and Indochinese countries to decide ? In 1954, China bargained with France in order to end the Indochina war on the backs of the three countries. In 1971/1972 it bargained with the U.S. to try to resolve the Vietnam war on the backs of the three countries. Now it continues to pursue its hegemonist policy, demanding to negotiate the Kampuchea issue again on the backs of these countries. The Soviet Union, however, has categorically rejected this.

At present, there are two different approaches toward the Southeast Asia question, including the Kampuchea issue, which are reflected in the resolutions of the United Nations and of the Non-aligned Movement Summit Conferences.

For the last four years, the United Nations has adopted some erroneous resolutions on the representation of Pol Pot at the United Nations and on the Kampuchea issue. These resolutions have recognised the genocidal clique, have supported the erroneous position of only one side and opposed the rebirth of the Kampuchean people, and the interests of the Indochinese countries as well as of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. They are, therefore, not implementable. If the United Nations continues to adhere to these erroneous resolutions, it will get itself deeper into the present impasse over the Kampuchea issue. China, as a founding member of the United Nations and also a permanent member of the Security Council has loudly demanded the implementation of these United Nations resolutions on Kampuchea. One may recall that in 1950, when China sent one million Chinese volunteer troops into Korea to help the people against U.S. aggression, the United States abused the U.N. majority to pass Resolutions # 498 (V) on February 1, 1951 and # 500 (V) on May 18, 1951 which condemned "China's aggression in Korea", demanded that China withdraw all its armed forces and called on other countries to impose an embargo on China; At that time, one may further recall, Vietnam and other Socialist countries, together with all the peace-loving countries, supported China in rejecting these resolutions. And now, after China has used Pol Pot to launch a war of aggression against Vietnam from the southwest and even engaged six hundred thousand Chinese troops in a war of aggression against Vietnam from the north, it has conspired with the United States to abuse the United Nations to pass erroneous resolutions on the presence of the Vietnamese volunteer troops engaged in helping the people of Kampuchea, exactly the same way the U.S. did against China at the United Nations. We hope that China, as a big nation, will not adopt such a wanton attitude toward an international organisation such as the United Nations.

Most of the ASEAN countries played a direct or indirect role in the U.S. aggression against Vietnam; now they have joined China and the United States in demanding that Vietnam execute these erroneous resolutions on Kampuchea. Yet they have supported Indonesia's occupation and annexation of East Timor; supported its defiance of the Security Council Resolutions #384 on December 22, 1975 and #389 on April 22, 1976 and other relevant resolutions on the question of East Timor adopted by the General Assembly since 1975. They have supported Indonesia's rejection of the resolutions passed by the Summit and Foreign Ministers Conferences of the Non-Aligned Movement.

In the last four years, while the United Nations maintained its erroneous resolutions on the Kampuchea issue, the Sixth Summit Conference in Havana (1979), the Seventh Summit Conference in New Delhi (1983) and Foreign Ministers conferences of the Non-Aligned Movement since 1981 have adopted correct resolutions on the question of Kampuchea's representation and on the Southeast Asia question, including the Kampuchea issue. These conferences have, since 1979, decided to leave Kampuchea's seat vacant and endorsed a resolution on a comprehensive solution to the Southeast Asia question, including the Kampuchea issue. These resolutions were unanimously adopted. The ASEAN and the Indochinese groups have both welcomed and accepted them.

We are faced with a reality that on the one hand, the U.N. resolutions support only one side while opposing the other and on the other hand, the Non-Aligned Movement resolutions are accepted by both sides in Southeast Asia. It is our view that the only way to expedite the negotiations between the two groups of Southeast Asian countries is to base the negotiations on the principles of equality and mutual respect and on the Non-Aligned Movement resolutions.

The international community, particularly all peace-loving nations including the Asian, African and Latin American countries which have just rid themselves of the colonial yoke, have pinned their hopes on the United Nations in the search for "peace, stability and justice". But as the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar remarked in his annual report, "1983 has, so far, been a frustrating year... for those who believe that the United Nations is the best available instrumentality to achieve these ends".

The remark by the Secretary-General is not only true with regard to the role the United Nations played in Southeast Asia in 1983 but also to the entire history of this region in the last thirty-eight years. The reality of these years points to the U.N.'s incompetence in face of the successive and bloody wars of aggression against the three Indochinese countries, even though a great number of its members had voiced their condemnation against those wars.

From 1945 until now, the U.N. majority has been silent in the face of the thunder of millions of tons of bombs and shells used by the aggressors against the three Indochinese peoples. The aggressors, instead of being punished, retain their seats as permanent members of the Security Council while the victims are kept out of the United Nations, without its protection. It must be said that four permanent members of the Security Council have committed aggression against the Indochinese countries. The Soviet Union is the only permanent member of the Security Council that has, together with other peace-loving countries supported our struggle for independence.

In the last four years, a majority of the United Nations has taken sides with the forces of aggression to oppose the Indochinese countries. Instead of upholding the banner of safeguarding human rights, it has recognised the genocidal Pol Pot gang, which ought to have been brought to trial and duly punished by a Nuremberg-type International Tribunal.

Vietnam, as a U.N. member, sincerely hopes that peace and stability in Southeast Asia will be established with the active participation of the United Nations. We don't want to see that peace and stability will be restored in Southeast Asia without its participation or regardless of the opposition by a U.N. majority. We are not opposed to the United Nations. But the main problem is that it continues to recognise the illegal Pol Potists, oppose the right to life of more than half the Khmer population who survived the genocide, and that most of its humanitarian aid is given to the genocidal gang, which enables them to undermine the rebirth of the Kampuchean people. That explains why, so far, all solutions to the Kampuchea issue within the U.N. framework have had to be based on a premise of legality for the criminal Pol Pot group. If the United Nation continues its present policy, then the question of peace and stability in Southeast Asia will be settled outside the U.N. framework. This will surely create an unfortunate precedent for the United Nations. The first and the second Indochinese wars were settled outside of the U.N. framework. The Indochinese countries, however, highly appreciate the role and the contribution of the U.N. Secretary-General to promote an understanding among countries in the region.

Mr. President,

Since the Russian Revolution, the world has witnessed the emergence of countries with different social systems, and hundreds of independent countries breaking out of the colonial system. This is the evolution of history. A number of state leaders have thus far raised their voices regarding the freedom and pluralism of their societies; but they at the same time cannot accept the pluralism and the freedom of other countries in the world. They want their old international order to be inviolable and they resort to forces to defend it.

Hot wars, like the Second World War, the Vietnam War, and cold wars, like those in the 50's, 60's and 80's cannot stop the evolution of history. The gun-boat policy of the few last centuries is completely outmoded nowadays and it only results in failure.

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There is only one way - peaceful co-existence among countries with different social systems, respect for the right of all peoples to self-determination, and peaceful settlement of all differences on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

This is true with regard to all the problems in the world; true for all regions and true for Southeast Asia as well !

Thank you, Mr. President.
