

Sum 14/79
OK

EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
PRESS AND INFORMATION SECTION

12 Victoria Road - London W8 - Tel. 01-937/1912

VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SPOKESMAN ANSWERS INTERVIEW
BY VIET NAM NEWS AGENCY ON 14TH JUNE, 1979

QUESTION : The propaganda organs of Peking and some western countries, including some officers of the U.S. and British Governments, have lately made untrue allegations about Vietnamese fleeing the country. How does the Government view this matter ?

ANSWER : Since the complete liberation of South Viet Nam, a number of people have sought to leave Viet Nam for foreign countries. The majority of them have either been deceived or instigated by the imperialists or the Peking reactionaries. But there are also those who have not willingly adapted themselves to the difficult post-war conditions of the country, and to the working life of the new society, and still others who have left Viet Nam because they wanted to reunite with their families abroad. The illegal and disorderly departure of these people has caused difficulties to the Viet Nam and to the countries where they arrived. Such departures are also dangerous for themselves. T

This situation has resulted from the aggressive war and the US-backed neo-colonialist regime in Southern Viet Nam in the past and the mischievous activities of the Peking expansionists and the other forces hostile to Viet Nam at present.

For our part, we have many times expressed our sympathy towards the other Southeast Asian countries where Vietnamese refugees have illegally landed and settled down. We have also expressed our willingness to do our utmost to co-operate with the United Nations High Commission for refugees for a solution to this problem.

On Jan. 12, 1979, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has declared its willingness to allow those people who wish to leave the country to reunite with their families or to earn their living in another country to do so after having complied with all the necessary procedures.

The Vietnamese authorities have agreed with the UN High Commission for refugees on a program to facilitate the refugees' departure in order and safety. The UN High Commission for refugees has undertaken to persuade other countries to accept this program.

All illegal departures have been and will be tried in accordance with the laws of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese Government's correct and reasonable policy has won widespread approval from world opinion, and some governments have shown their readiness to cooperate.

While everything is going smoothly, the despicable slanders and instigations used by the Peking reactionaries in collusion with the U.S. and British authorities are obviously aimed at isolating Viet Nam from the other Southeast Asian countries and preventing cooperation between Viet Nam and these countries and the UN High Commission for refugees. Peking, although responsible for a large part of the refugee problem, aims to use it to diminish Viet Nam's international prestige and to mislead world opinion which is denouncing Peking's hostile policy toward Viet Nam as detrimental to peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

No slanders and distortions by the imperialist and international reactionaries can blur Viet Nam's humane policy and shake the Vietnamese people's determination to build and defend their socialist country, thus contributing to the defence of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world./.

N O T E

*of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry to the
British Foreign and Commonwealth Office*

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam presents its compliments to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and deems it necessary to make clear its views as follows :

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has more than one occasion made it known to the British Government of the humane policy of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam regarding those people who want to leave Viet Nam to join their families and settle abroad, the British authorities both in London and in Hong Kong have kept over the recent days making statements which amount to sheer fabrications, distortions and slanders against Viet Nam.

The fact that a number of people are seeking to leave Viet Nam is obviously an aftermath of the U.S. war of aggression and former neocolonialist regime, and a result of the extremely perfidious schemes and tricks of the Peking authorities and the reactionary forces hostile to Viet Nam. Nevertheless, the British authorities have levelled against Viet Nam the slanderous charges of "having a humane-being exports program" for profit.

It is common knowledge that the Peking authorities themselves have provoked through threats and inducement a massive exodus of the Hoa people in an attempt to disrupt the Vietnamese economy, weaken Viet Nam and prepare for an aggression against Viet Nam. Yet, the British authorities are covering up these perfidious schemes by echoing Peking's contention and slanderously accusing Viet Nam of expelling Hoa people to the extent of describing it as a "racialist coercion".

With the blatant tendentious and slanderous statements recalled above, the British authorities have actually participated in the frenzied anti-Viet Nam campaign of the reactionary Peking authorities.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam vehemently protests against and categorically rejects the slanderous contentions of the British authorities and demands that the British Government stop joining the Peking authorities in their anti-Viet Nam campaign.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the assurance of its high consideration.

Hanoi, 14th June, 1979.