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

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S T A T E M E N T

*by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the  
question of Vietnamese fleeing abroad*

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1. Over the past thirty years, the imperialist and reactionary forces from the French colonialists, and the U.S. imperialists to the Peking expansionists, have, while carrying out their anti-Viet Nam policy, used the so-called refugee question created by themselves to cover up their own crimes, undermine Viet Nam's international prestige, and foster opposition forces for long-term disruptive attempts against our people's just cause.

In 1954 when our people's first patriotic resistance war ended in victory, the imperialists and reactionaries organized, under the signboard of "god having gone south", a forcible migration of one million compatriots of ours from the north to the south.

In 1975, in face of the total collapse of the puppet administration, the U.S. imperialists, invoking the so-called "threat of a bloodbath" created by the Viet Cong, attempted to induce a forcible exodus of one to two million "refugees" from South Viet Nam. However, the rapid victory of the 1975 Spring general offensives and uprisings of our people and armed forces prevented them from fully carrying out this criminal plan. Over 160,000 people were forced to leave, and not a small number of them met a tragic death in the chaotic situation then obtaining.

Following the complete liberation of our country, the U.S. imperialists and hostile forces embittered by our people's resounding victory sparked off a rather noisy anti-Viet Nam campaign about "human rights". With all kinds of distortions, deceptions, and perfidious devices, including the dispatch of ships off Viet Nam's coasts, they made every attempt to instigate and induce those elements who do not approve the new regime and those who fail to adapt themselves to the postwar life of hard work to leave Viet Nam, and they insisted on Viet Nam's letting those people go freely.

From early 1978 onwards, while overtly supporting the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique's efforts to step up the war of aggression against Viet Nam at its South Western border, the reactionary Peking ruling circles circulated reports

about an "inevitable Sino-Vietnamese war", induced through coercion or instigation an exodus to China of hundreds of thousands of Hoa people, rigged up the so-called problem of Viet Nam's "persecuting and expelling Chinese residents", stirred up enmity and hatred between the two peoples and made preparations for a war of aggression against Viet Nam from the north. A fairly large number of those people had been organized and trained by the Peking reactionaries into spies, commandos, guides for the 600,000-strong army which invaded Viet Nam in February 1979. Despite their dismal defeat, the Peking reactionaries have not given up their annexationist design against Viet Nam, and their scheme of using the Hoa question to undermine the relations between Viet Nam and other South-East Asian countries. They have continued pushing already-trained Hoa back to Viet Nam or to other South-East Asian countries to serve as a "fifth column", furthering new ventures to carry out their expansionist ambitions. Yet, they have impudently levelled against Viet Nam slanderous charges of expelling Hoa people and "exporting refugees" to other countries.

The cruel war of aggression waged by imperialism against the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea turned millions of Vietnamese and hundreds of thousands of Lao and Kampucheans into refugees. The genocidal policy of the Peking expansionists and their henchmen in Kampuchea caused the death of three million Kampucheans, drove over four million to a hard-labour life, and forced hundreds of thousands of other, among them tens of thousands of people of Chinese descent, to seek asylum in Viet Nam and Thailand.

Facts have shown that the U.S. imperialists and the Peking expansionists are precisely the inducers of the "exodus" of hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese, Lao and Kampucheans, and they must be held fully responsible for the difficulties caused by the flow of illegally outgoing refugees to Viet Nam and a number of other South-East Asian countries. With millions of tons of bombs and shells, the U.S. imperialists committed monstrous crimes against the Vietnamese people, and left behind extremely serious economic and social consequences. With two wars of aggression from the South-West and at the Northern border of Viet Nam, the Peking reactionaries have perpetrated against the Vietnamese people even more odious crimes than those of the Hitlerite fascists. They have also perpetrated horrible crimes, massacring millions of Chinese in the course of a bloody power struggle. All deceptions and distortions are unable to write off the crimes of the U.S. imperialists and the Peking reactionaries against the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos, Kampuchea and other South-East Asian countries.

2. After almost half a century of unremitting fight for independence and freedom, the Vietnamese people have embarked on the reconstruction of their country and have recorded important achievements in the economic and cultural fields and in the stabilization and improvement of their living conditions. However, hardly had they come out of a thirty-year war when they were confronted with the war of aggression and the crude hostile policy of the Peking reactionaries. Despite the many difficulties and hardships still

ahead, the whole Vietnamese nation, united as one man, is determined to carry out production and fighting abreast, to build and defend effectively their beloved socialist fatherland, and to promote step by step a life of increasing welfare and happiness.

However, since the complete liberation of our country, a number of people have tried to flee and settle abroad. Apart from a great percentage of victims to the instigation and deception by the imperialists and the Peking reactionaries, these include persons who have failed to adapt themselves to the post-war difficult situation of the country, and to mix with the life of work in the new society, and also persons who wish to join their families abroad.

Any objective person will realize that the cause of the fleeing abroad of a number of Vietnamese lies in the aftermath of the U.S. imperialists aggressive war and neo-colonialist regime and the extremely perfidious schemes and tricks of the Peking expansionists and other forces hostile to Viet Nam.

As far as it is concerned, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has repeatedly expressed its comprehension with regard to the South East Asian countries to which illegally outgoing Vietnamese have come and settled, and it is prepared to extend its utmost cooperation to the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the other South-East Asian countries with a view to finding a satisfactory solution to this problem.

On January 12, 1979, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam announced that those people wishing to go abroad for family reunion or to earn a living would be permitted to do so in a legal manner after fulfilling all required procedures.

On May 30, 1979, the competent Vietnamese services reached agreement with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on a seven-point programme which has been made public and which aims at facilitating an orderly and safe departure of the above-said people. The Office of the U.N.H.C.R. undertakes to enlist support for this programme among recipient countries.

The correct, sensible and reasonable policy of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has elicited appreciation from broad sections of world public opinion. A number of governments have taken a cooperation attitude in the implementation of this policy. It is necessary to point out that while everything is progressing favourably and the number of Vietnamese illegally leaving Viet Nam has been reduced, the Peking ruling circles and responsible persons in Washington have repeatedly put forth extremely odious distortions and slanders about the Vietnamese refugees problem in an attempt to stir up public opinion against Viet Nam. They have talked a great deal

about the difficulties imposed on the South-East Asian countries while they themselves must be held responsible for those difficulties. They have urged the international community to intervene and called for the convening of an international conference on refugees... While refusing to cooperate with the Office of the U.N.H.C.R. in the implementation of the understanding reached with a view to organizing a legal, orderly and safe departure for those who wish to leave. Obviously Peking and Washington want to side-track world public opinion which is condemning their policy of hostility to Viet Nam and their attempts to drive a wedge between South-East Asian countries and Viet Nam, to stop the former from cooperating with Viet Nam and the United Nations H.C.R. . The reactionary Peking ruling circles are strongly opposed to the implementation of the seven points agreed upon between Viet Nam and U.N.H.C.R. They want to maintain and step up the flow of 'refugees' going out in an illegal and unorganized manner so as to use this question as an instrument to oppose Viet Nam, and to take advantage of this situation to send their men to South-East Asian countries to cause difficulties to the latter and to undermine peace and stability in this part of the world.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam strongly denounces and condemns this wicked design of the U.S. administration and the reactionary Peking ruling circles, and once again solemnly declares :

A) Proceeding from the humanitarian policy of the Vietnamese Socialist State and in accordance with Vietnamese laws, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has decided to permit those Vietnamese who wish to go abroad for family reunion or to earn a living to do so in a legal manner after full compliance with the required procedures.

The organizers and inducers of illegal departures have been and will be punished according to the laws of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

B) The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is of the view that full implementation of the seven-point programme agreed upon between the Vietnamese competent services and the U.N.H.C.R. is the best step likely to settle difficulties for Viet Nam and other South-East Asian countries concerned, and to meet the legitimate concern of justice-loving public opinion in the world.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam calls on the international community, first of all the recipient countries, to take a constructive and cooperative attitude with regard to the U.N.H.C.R. in order to implement the above-mentioned seven-point programme and to settle the problem of the refugees gathering in a number of South-East Asian countries.

C) The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is willing to attend a conference of directly concerned countries convened by the U.N.H.C.R. with a view to discussing the implementation of the seven-point programme agreed upon between Viet Nam and the U.N.H.C.R. All other kinds of international conferences are merely designed to cover up the crimes of the U.S.

imperialists and the Peking reactionaries, and to carry out schemes directed at the peoples of Viet Nam and the other Indochinese countries, and to create obstacles to the efforts of the U.N.H.C.R. in the refugee problem.

D) The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam will continue bilateral meetings with the South-East Asian countries concerned in a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding and respect for each other's legitimate interests.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam are confident that the above just position and correct policy will enjoy broad approval and support from the Socialist, the non-aligned, and the peace - and justice-loving countries around the world.

Hanoi, June 20, 1979.

M E M O R A N D U M

*of Understanding Between the Government of the Socialist  
Republic of Viet Nam and the Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Concerning the  
Departure of Persons from the Socialist Republic  
of Viet Nam*

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Following discussions held in Hanoi between representatives of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and a Delegation of the Office of the U.N.H.C.R. from February 26 to March 5 and from May 25 to May 30, 1979, it is agreed that U.N.H.C.R. will facilitate the implementation of the January 12 announcement by the Vietnamese Government to permit the orderly departure of persons who wish to leave Viet Nam for countries of new residence.

Regarding the programme to implement such orderly departure, it is understood that :

1- Authorized exit of those people who wish to leave Viet Nam and settle in foreign countries - family reunion and other humanitarian cases- will be carried out as soon as possible and to the maximum extent. The number of such people will depend both on the volume of applications for exit from Viet Nam and on receiving countries' ability to issue entry visas.

2- The selection of those people authorized to go abroad under this programme will, whenever possible, be made on the basis of the lists prepared by the Vietnamese Government and the lists prepared by the receiving countries. Those persons whose names appear on both lists will qualify for exit. As for those persons whose names appear on only one list their cases will be subject to discussions between U.N.H.C.R. and the Vietnamese Government or the Government Governments of the receiving countries, as appropriate.

3- U.N.H.C.R. will make every effort to enlist support for this programme amongst potential receiving countries.

4- The Vietnamese Government and U.N.H.C.R. will each appoint personnel who will closely co-operate in the implementation of this programme.

5- This personnel are authorized to operate in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city and, as necessary, to go to other places to promote exit operations.

6- Exit operations will be effected at regular intervals by appropriate means of transport.

7- The Vietnamese Government will, subject to relevant Vietnamese laws, provide U.N. H.C.R. and the receiving countries with every facility to implement this programme ./.