

July 30/79
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EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
PRESS AND INFORMATION SECTION

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S P E E C H

*by Head of the Delegation of the Government of
the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Dinh Nho Liem
at the fourth meeting of the second round of
Viet Nam - China talks (July 30, 1979)*

The Viet Nam-China talks were, as laid down by the two sides, to discuss the urgent measures aimed at securing peace and stability in border areas, to restore normal relations and eventually to settle the border and territorial disputes between the two countries. However, since the beginning, the Chinese side has adamantly insisted on dealing with the so-called "Kampuchean problem", going even to the length of regarding this as a precondition for the progress of the talks and for the normalization of relations between Viet Nam and China. To justify this arrogant demand, it has cooked up a so-called Vietnamese "regional hegemonism", and misrepresented Viet Nam's correct relations with Kampuchea and Laos. The Vietnamese side has flatly rejected the Chinese slanderous contentions and absurd demands. At the same time, it has pointed out that these bilateral talks have no right to deal with the problem of a third country.

In face of the Vietnamese side's correct and clear-out position which enjoys broad approval from public opinion, the Chinese side claimed at the last meeting that Viet Nam was attempting to turn the whole Indochina into "an anti-China base" and that "China has every reason and right to demand that Viet Nam stop its pursuance of regional hegemonism", because it "threatens" China's peace and security and is the "cause" of the deterioration of the relations between the two countries. This awkwardly patched-up contention is a new attempt of the Chinese side to side-track public opinion which is condemning its war of aggression in Viet Nam and its genocide in Kampuchea and urging it to stop uttering threats of aggression against Viet Nam, fomenting troubles and intimidating Laos, and interfering in the internal affairs of Kampuchea. It also aims at justifying the arrogant demand that the so-called "Kampuchean problem" be dealt with at the Viet Nam-China talks. Once again, the Vietnamese side firmly demands that the Chinese side stop that hegemonistic way of negotiation. The affairs of Kampuchea are to be decided

by the Kampuchean people. The situation in that country is irreversible. All schemes and tricks to interfere in its internal affairs are doomed to failure.

Let the Chinese side turn back to the purpose of these negotiations, i.e., to solve the problems in the relations between Viet Nam and China. In order to find a correct solution thereto, right from the start of the talks, the Vietnamese delegation reviewed the process of Viet Nam - China relations, particularly over the recent years, and made it clear that the deep root and the immediate cause of the tense situation which led the recent large-scale war of aggression against Viet Nam lie in the great-power expansionist and hegemonistic policy of the Chinese rulers and their policy of hostility to Viet Nam. Nevertheless, the Chinese side has kept quibbling in an attempt to evade its undeniable responsibility, at the same time, it has unceasingly put forward distortions and slanders against Viet Nam, in order to reverse the facts about the cause of the deterioration of the relations between the two countries. The Vietnamese Delegation deems it necessary to make clear once again the essence of the problem.

Viet Nam and China are two close neighbours. Being both victims of the feudalist, imperialist and colonialist forces, the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples waged shoulder to shoulder a protracted struggle full of hardships and sacrifices for independence and freedom, they supported and assisted each other, and promoted their friendship. The Vietnamese people will never forget the support and assistance extended by the Chinese people to their resistance wars against the French colonialists and the U.S. imperialist aggressors. On the other hand, through their staunch fight full of sacrifices and crowned with victory, they have fulfilled their international duty to the other nations, among them, the Chinese people, with sincere and pure feelings with the practical deeds, they have unceasingly fostered the friendship between the two peoples. To preserve and develop that friendship is a fundamental, long-term policy of the Vietnamese Government and people. Although over the recent years, there have arisen differences between the two countries, the Vietnamese Government and people have always shown self-restrain and tried not to let these differences affect the normal relations between the two states and the time-honoured friendship between the two peoples. They have persistently stood for a negotiated settlement of all disputes between the two sides, and have made important initiatives leading to the previous and the current bilateral talks. All these facts are well-known not only to the two peoples, but also to the peoples of the world.

In contrast, a number of Chinese leaders, entertaining great-power expansionism and hegemonism, have for a long time now considered Viet Nam a prime target in their hegemonistic ambitions in Southeast Asia. At first, they sought by every possible means to induce or pressure Viet Nam into giving up its line of independence and sovereignty and entering China's orbit. They misused the aid and assistance of the Chinese people to the Vietnamese people

as an instrument to further this evil design. With their reversal of alliances turning friends into foes, and vice versa, colluding with imperialism, in the first place, U.S. imperialism, and the other reactionary forces to oppose revolution and peace, they have carried out with increasing frenzy a systematic policy of hostility to Viet Nam in all respects. An independent, unified and prosperous Viet Nam is an obstacle to the pursuance of great-power expansionism and hegemonism in Southeast Asia. For this reason, immediately after the Vietnamese people's total victory in the patriotic resistance war against U.S. aggression, and without giving them time to start healing the wounds of war, they launched, through the stooge Bol Pot- Ieng Sary clique, a war of aggression against Viet Nam at its South-Western border, they stepped up armed provocations along its Northern border, instigated Hoa people to leave en masse and to try to foment troubles and violences to undermine Viet Nam from within, they created pretexts to cut off all aid to Viet Nam and the normal cooperation between the two countries. At the same time, they sought by every possible means to sabotage the political and economic relations between Viet Nam and other countries, and to induce them to oppose Viet Nam. The culmination of this hostile policy was the ruthless war of aggression they launched on February 17, 1979 against the Vietnamese people. Peking's excuses about their "forbearance being driven to the limits" and about "counter-attacking in self-defence" could in no way cover up its crimes in this unjust war. It is the Chinese rulers who caused the ruins and thorough devastations in the six Northern border provinces of Viet Nam.

This war ran counter to the interests of the Chinese people themselves, it made the relations between Viet Nam and China extremely tense, and seriously impaired the traditional friendship between the two peoples. After its failure the Chinese rulers have, on the one hand, made continued efforts to create and maintain a permanent border tension, on the other and, they are conducting a frantic anti-Viet Nam campaign in the international arena, and stirring up anti-Viet Nam feelings among the Chinese people. Thwarted in their attempt to turn the Geneva Conference on refugees into an anti-Viet Nam forum, and discontented with the results thereof, the Peking rulers are still trying to use the "Vietnamese refugees question" to further their dark designs. They are doomed to total failure.

As is thus clear, it is the Chinese rulers who have been pursuing with the greatest fury and frenzy a systematic policy of hostility to the Vietnamese people. That is the root cause of the deterioration of the relations between Viet Nam and China, that policy is part and parcel of their overall foreign line of increasingly closer collusion with U.S. imperialism against revolution and peace, it thoroughly exposes their great-power expansionism and hegemonism.

However, the Chinese rulers have ceaselessly claimed that they are "not seeking hegemony", they have even posed as more resolutely "anti-hegemony" sighthoard to further hegemonism is their familiar trick which the Vietnamese side repeatedly exposed at the previous meetings particularly on July 5, 1979.

If the Chinese rulers are really not seeking hegemony as they have often claimed, let them take concrete deeds in line with the contents put forward by the Vietnamese side :

- Non-expansion of territory in any form whatsoever. Immediate ending of the state of affairs in which territories are grabbed to other countries.
- Non-aggression, non-use of force or of threat to use force to "punish" any country or "to teach it a lesson".
- Non-imposition of one's own ideologies, views and lines on other countries. Non-use of any trick whatsoever, including economic aid, to compel other countries to relinquish their policy of independence and sovereignty. Non-interference in the relations of one country with another.
- Non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries through opposition organizations fostered by oneself, or by the instrumentality of one's overseas nationals, or in any other form whatsoever.
- Non-alliance with imperialism and other reactionary forces against peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

The above-recalled contents of anti-hegemonism are fully consistent with the actual situation now prevailing, and meet the imperative demands which are being posed in the relations between China and Viet Nam as well as other countries in Indochina and Southeast Asia. So long as the Chinese rulers try to quibble without taking any concrete actions to prove that they are "no longer seeking hegemony", their profession of "anti-hegemony", are but empty and deceptive talk.

At present, the situation along the border between the two countries remains very tense. The Chinese side is keeping a big military force massed close to Viet Nam border, making continued war preparations, stepping up armed provocations and indulging in ceaseless violations of Vietnamese territory at different places. On July 26, 1979, a Chinese Vice-Premier again threatened "to teach Viet Nam another lesson". South-East Asian public opinion is protesting against China's exerting a military pressure on Viet Nam and menacing regional peace and security. The Peking rulers have also driven back to Viet Nam a number of people who had fled to China at their instigation for purposes of espionage activities, renewing "contacts", fomenting troubles, this has complicated the border situation which is already strained. At this negotiating table, however, the Chinese side has adamantly tried to deny and justify its border provocations. It has stubbornly evaded and refused to reach agreement with the Vietnamese side on a mutual undertaking to refrain from armed provocations along the border. Obviously, in refusing to respond to this Vietnamese proposal, the Chinese side is attempting to maintain a permanent border tension to jeopardize Viet Nam's security, in order to bring pressure to bear on it and create a pretext of rekindle the war of aggression at any moment. The slanderous contentions demanding that Viet Nam "stop" its so-called "provocations and incursions into Chinese

border areas" are merely designed to camouflage these Chinese dangerous actions. In its July 23, 1979 Note, the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned the recent armed provocations of the Chinese side and flatly rejected the latter's fabrications reversing right and wrong about the border situation. At the last meeting, the Chinese side claimed to be "ready to undertake not to seek hegemony in any form". Let it then take a concrete action, that is, to discuss and sign immediately with the Vietnamese side an agreement on a mutual commitment to refrain from armed provocations of effective at the earliest date possible. Let the two sides discuss without delay whatever practical measures to secure firmly peace and stability in border areas, thus creating favourable conditions for the restoration of the normal relations between Viet Nam and China. Everyone is expecting such an action from the Chinese side./.