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

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FOREIGN MINISTRY REJECTS U.S.

CLAIMS THAT VIET NAM USES TOXIC CHEMICALS IN LAOS  
AND KAMPUCHEA

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Hanoi VNA August 13, a Spokesman for the Foreign Ministry today issued a statement denouncing the U.S. State Department for issuing a false report claiming that the Soviet Union and Viet Nam are using toxic chemicals in Afghanistan, Laos and Kampuchea, and demanding that the U.N. carry out an international investigation.

The Statement said :

"This is a trick aimed at defaming the Soviet Union and Viet Nam, and forcing U.N. intervention on Afghanistan, Laos and Kampuchea, in misleading public opinion, the U.S. is attempting to evade its responsibilities, and erase all memory of its crimes against the Vietnamese people and against a great number of U.S. war veterans who are victims of the U.S. use of toxic chemicals in the U.S. war of aggression against Viet Nam.

"Despite the repeated failure of their crimes against the three Indochinese peoples and the Afghan people, the U.S. imperialist have not abandoned the policy of playing the Chinese card against the Soviet Union and Viet Nam, sabotaging independence and sovereignty of the nations causing tension in Asia and elsewhere in the world.

"The Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam firmly rejects the above-mentioned U.S. slander, it strongly condemns and demands an immediate end to the hostile acts of the U.S. against the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea as well as its policy of aggravation world tension. The U.S. cannot evade its responsibilities. Engaging in a slander campaign and committing further crimes, its devious schemes will be thoroughly exposed./.

PROTEST AGAINST PHILIPPINE OCCUPATION OF VIETNAMESE ISLAND

Hanoi VNA August 12.- The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has protested against the Philippines for seizing Comodore Reef in the Vietnamese Archipelago of Truong Sa.

The protest was raised in a note handed yesterday by Vu Tien, Acting Head of the Third Department for Asian Affairs under The Foreign Ministry, to Filipino Ambassador Juan B. Cruz, JR.

Vu Tien stressed that this was the third time from 1978 when the Republic of Philippines violated Vietnam's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the agreement between two countries on solving disputes through peaceful negotiations. The occupation of Comodore, he said, does not, benefit relations between the two countries and peace and security in the region./.