

EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
Press and Information Section

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# 1- VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY REJECTS U.S. SLANDERS

Hanoi VNA September 17: A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam today issued the following statement:

On September 13, 1981 in a speech reeking with cold war language made in West Berlin, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig unashamedly charged Vietnam with using Soviet-Supplied toxic chemicals in Laos and Kampuchea. Later, some high officials of the U.S. State Department took up this customary practice of the United States of making black white.

The fact that the head of the U.S. diplomacy personally made this slander a few days before the opening of the 36th session of the U.N. General Assembly obviously aims to relieve the U.S. from its difficulties and isolation in the face of the strong wave of protest from the whole progressive opinion against the Reagan administration's rushing headlong in the arms race, provoking tension and reviving the cold war atmosphere, seriously threatening the independence and security of nations and world peace. The United States is increasing its nuclear arsenal and manufacturing more arms of massive destruction and of extreme barbarity, including chemical weapons, bacteriological weapons and neutron weapons. The United States is stepping up the export of weapons and war equipment including the sales of arms to the reactionary ruling circles in Beijing. The U.S. has openly resorted to the threat of war, and brazenly used acts of international terrorism, crudely interfering in the internal affairs of other countries while encouraging its client countries or dependencies to toe its line. The U.S. is conducting a bacteriological warfare against Cuba and is supplying toxic chemicals to the reactionaries to be used against the peoples of other countries as is the case in Afghanistan. The fact that the U.S. rehashing its senseless slanders against Vietnam also aims to plead for its policy of increasing collusion with the reactionary ruling circles in Beijing against the people of Vietnam and other

Indochinese countries, and for the time being to retain the seat of the genocidal Pol Pot clique at the United Nations.

It is at the same time aimed at covering the crime of the United States of using toxic chemicals on a large scale and for more than ten years during its criminal aggression against Vietnam. Its chemical sprays still leave serious consequences especially in the form of cancer and deformed and disabled children. However, all the slanders and odious distortions of the United States can deceive nobody. World public opinion, especially in Western Europe, Japan and Australia, and right in the United States, is vigorously condemning the Reagan administration and demanding it put an immediate end to the arms race which is jeopardizing peace. It holds the U.S. responsible for these criminal war crimes against the people of Vietnam and the other Indochinese countries and against the American GI's who have suffered the atrocious consequences of the chemicals used by the United States during the Vietnam war.

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam completely rejects the above odious slanders of the United States and demands the Reagan administration to stop collaborating with the expansionists and hegemonists in Beijing against the Vietnamese and other Indochinese peoples.

Together with all the peace-and justice-loving people throughout the world, including the progressive people in the United States, the Vietnamese people strongly denounce and are determined to check the criminal schemes and acts of the U.S. administration which is pushing mankind to the war disaster with the most barbarous and brutal lethal weapons including the neutron weapons, chemical weapons and bacteriological weapons produced by the States.

2- INTERVIEW BY FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH TO  
NIC NUGENT SINGAPORE-BASED BBC CORRESPONDENT

Question 1: Zao Ziyang's visit to South East Asia apparently failed to dispel suspicions of the Chinese motives in some Asian capitals. Will you use this opportunity to make a new approach to Asean governments? Can we expect a new initiative by Vietnam before the UN General Assembly meets?

Answer: China's policy towards Vietnam and Asean is constantly changing: Formerly it considered Indochina a friend, and was opposed to Asean, now it considers Asean a friend and opposes Indochina, but one fact remains unchanged: China will never give up its tools for expansion in South East Asia, namely pro-Chinese reactionary organisations and elements in Asean and Indochinese countries against South East Asian governments regardless of whether it considers them friend or foe. Relations between Asean and Indochinese countries should be based on their common interests, peace, stability, and co-operation, and should not be interfered by any outside country.

The three Indochinese countries have put forth many constructive proposals with a view to advance to the dialogue between the two groups, Asean and Indochina, in the interest of peace and stability in the region. The latest proposals were put forward by the three Indochinese countries on June 14, 1981 in Phnom Penh, They are still valid.

Question 2: Following the international conference on Kampuchea, do you consider there is any new possibility of dialogue between Indochinese and Asean Foreign Ministers?

Answer: In order to solve the problems in South East Asia, there must be dialogue between the Asean and Indochinese countries, because in reality there are two groups of countries, Indochina and Asean, these two groups must co-exist in peace and there is no other way.

The failure of the so-called international conference on Kampuchea has shown clearly than ever that only dialogue between Asean and Indochinese countries can break the present impasse.

Question 3: Could you envisage there ever being a role for Sihanouk and for Son Sann in any Kampuchean Government?

Answer: The Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea has reiterated that Sihanouk as well as Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, Son Sann, Lon Nol, In Tam, etc., are only puppets of Beijing and the U.S. imperialists, and they are trying their best to reverse the rebirth of the Kampuchean people who have just emerged from Pol-Pot-hell.

Question 4: What is the state of security in Kampuchea and how soon do you envisage that the Vietnamese forces might be withdrawn?

Answer: The situation in Kampuchea is becoming more and more stable. The Kampuchean people have stepped up production and have eliminated famine. General elections have taken place and the Kampuchean people have elected the National Assembly and formed their Government. The new administration is now in effective control of the whole country.

Once the Chinese threat no longer exists, Vietnam and Kampuchea will discuss the complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese army from Kampuchea. The two parties would consider a partial withdrawal depending on whether peace and security along the Kampuchean - Thai border were assured.

Question 5: What are Vietnam's long-term hopes for Kampuchea?

Answer: The Vietnamese people have but one desire that the Kampuchean people realise their wish to build a peaceful, independent<sup>and</sup> non-aligned Kampuchea and to live in peace and friendship with their neighbouring countries.

Question 6: What are Vietnam's hopes for the normalisation of relations with China and with the United States?

Answer: Normalisation of relations between Vietnam and China as well as between Vietnam and the United States is beneficial to the people of Vietnam, China and the United States and to peace and stability in the region and in the world.

With regard to China, Vietnam continues to maintain its traditional policy of friendship towards the Chinese people, and wants to solve the disputes by negotiation, but at the same time, it is ready to face all schemes and acts of aggression by the Beijing rulers.

With regard to the United States, Vietnam has shown its attitude and goodwill. It should also be realised that Vietnam nevertheless exists even if there is no normalisation of relations with the United States.

Hanoi, September 17, 1981

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