

## PRESIDENT HO'S WILL, A HISTORIC DOCUMENT

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Departing from this world President Ho left us a historic will. It is his last instructions to our entire party, army and people. Let us study it carefully so as to understand and implement it thoroughly.

President Ho's will contains the last thoughts of a great mind and the last sentiments of a great heart. It is the summary of a great life of more than 60 years of continuous revolutionary activity in the service of the fatherland, the revolution and the people. It is also the light that illuminates the path of our entire party, army and people in the current revolutionary period.

President Ho wrote his will at a time when important developments were taking place in our country and in the world. In our country, our people's anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation had won great victories, defeated the aerial and naval war of destruction by the American imperialists in the North and stepped up the general offensive and uprising in the South, dealing heavy blows at the American imperialists. However, because the American imperialists still refused to give up their aggressive attempts in our country and stubbornly continued the war in the hope of imposing their neo-colonialist system in the South of our country, our people in the whole country had to remain persistent and continued to push the anti-U.S. resistance to complete victory. In the world, the rapidly growing communist and worker movement had scored great victories; the international socialist system had been formed and was growing strong; the rising tide of national liberation in Asia, Africa and Latin America had swiftly swept off the imperialist-colonialist system; the movement for peace, democracy and socialism of the working class and people in capitalist countries was also growing strong and dealing heavy blows at the imperialists right in their bastions; the imperialist camp headed by the U.S. was in the process of weakening and was in deep crisis; the balance of power in the world had changed and was changing in favor of peace, national independence, democracy and socialism; the world revolution had won great victories and was in the offensive. How-

ever, the loss of unity within the socialist camp and the international communist and worker movement was greatly hindering the strategic offensive momentum of the world revolution.

Written against such a historic background, President Ho's will reflected the major developments of both the Vietnamese and the world revolutions, and at the same time put forth extremely heavy but glorious tasks for our entire party, army and people.

With its precise and concise words, the will contains the great thoughts and sentiments of President Ho, of our entire party, army and people, and of our times. By imbuing ourselves with and promoting these great thoughts and sentiments we will have a much greater strength to advance steadily in continuing President Ho's great undertaking.

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The top priority task President Ho set for us in his will is to defeat the American aggressors. U.S. imperialism is the most dangerous enemy of our nation. It is prosecuting a war of aggression against our country. Only by defeating the American aggressors will we be able to achieve national liberation. President Ho taught us that "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." He had fought all his life for the independence and freedom of the fatherland. The present enemy of our independence and freedom is U.S. imperialism. In his will, President Ho instructed us to "resolutely fight against the American aggressors till final victory."

The anti-U.S. resistance may last very long; our people will have to undergo more hardships and sacrifices, but total victory shall belong to us. Opening his will, President Ho expressed his strong belief in the inevitable victory of our people's anti-U.S. resistance:

"In the anti-U.S. fight for national salvation, our people will have to undergo more hardships and sacrifices, but we will certainly achieve total victory.

"This is an absolute certainty."

President Ho pointed out:

"The American imperialists will have to get out of our country. Our fatherland will certainly be reunified. Our compatriots in both the North and the South will certainly be reunited under the same roof."

This is also the strong belief of our entire party, army and people.

U.S. imperialism is not only the enemy of our people. It is also the enemy of all peoples in the world, for it is an international gendarme, the

world's biggest exploiter, the number one enemy of the progressive mankind.

Defeat the American imperialists, and our people will fulfill not only our glorious national mission but also our noble international obligations. Defeat the American imperialists, and our people will make a great contribution to the liberation of all the oppressed peoples, the working class and the people in the world. President Ho said: "Our country will have the great honor of being a small nation which has heroically defeated two big imperialisms -- the French and the American -- and made a worthy contribution to the national liberation movement."

Defeating the American imperialists is a very heavy but glorious task. Our entire party, army and people are determined to implement President Ho's will and strive to fulfill that heavy but glorious task.

Another strategic task President Ho set for us is building socialism to improve our people's material and cultural life.

Our people's well-being was one of President Ho's deep concerns. President Ho loved the people very much. He often expressed his wish that "everybody in the country is well fed, well clothed and well educated." To achieve this goal it is necessary to build socialism. In his will, President Ho instructed that "the party must work out good economic and cultural development plans in order to constantly improve the people's living standards."

Only by developing our economy and culture will we be able to bring prosperity to the country and happiness to the people. In implementing President Ho's will, let us strive to expand production, increase labor productivity and work efficiency, step up the building of socialist material and technical bases, complete socialist reforms, develop the people's right to collective ownership and improve the people's material and cultural life.

Revolution is a long and hard undertaking. For revolution to be successful it must be carried out by many successive generations. Therefore, training future generations to continue the revolution is an extremely important task. In his will, President Ho instructed that "the training of future revolutionary generations is a highly important and necessary task." President Ho was a far-sighted man. Therefore he was always interested in the training and education of future revolutionary generations. He once said: "For ten-year benefits, we should plant trees; for hundred-year benefits, we should train men." He was particularly concerned with youth and children education. He instructed the party to pay attention to educating the Lao Dong Youth Group members and other youths in revolutionary ethics, with a view to train them into the continuators of the party's revolution.

Party and national unity is the key to the success of the revolution. Striving to strengthen party and national unity is a highly important task. President Ho said in his will that "unity is an extremely precious tradition of our party and people. All comrades, from the Central Committee down to party chapters, must preserve party unity like their eye pupils." President

Ho was always concerned with party unity, and he had successfully built our party into a strong, united and unified bloc serving as the nucleus for the national unity bloc.

Party unity must be based on party lines and policies, and also on comradeship, both in reason and in sentiment. President Ho instructed us to "have a genuine comradeship and affection for one another."

President Ho was also deeply concerned with national unity, and he had successfully built the Front for National Unification broadly based on the strong worker-peasant alliance. It was his policy of great unity that led our revolution from one victory to another. In implementing his will, let us practice broad democracy, carry out self-criticism and criticism regularly and seriously, and strive to consolidate and strengthen our party and national unity.

In the struggle for national liberation and for building socialism, our people must first of all rely on our own, but our people must also have the material and moral support of other peoples, particularly the people of socialist countries. Therefore, international unity has a great significance to our revolution. Our strength comes first of all from national unity and also from international unity. Promoting international unity is an important task of our entire party and people. In his will, President Ho said he "wish that our party will do its best to contribute effectively to the restoration of unity among the fraternal parties on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, in a way consonant to the requirements of heart and reason."

President Ho was deeply concerned with international unity, and he had made great efforts to help build the international unity of the communist movement, the working class and the oppressed nations. He was very pleased of the rapid growth of the world revolutionary movement, and he was very sad because of the present rift between a number of fraternal parties and countries. He firmly believed that all fraternal parties and countries would unite closely to concentrate their efforts on fighting against U.S.-headed imperialism. In implementing President Ho's will, let us pledge to do our best to help restore and strengthen international unity "on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, in a way consonant to the requirements of heart and reason," for the good of the Vietnamese and world revolutions.

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President Ho's will illustrates the perseverance and undaunted spirit of a great communist who had fought all his life for national independence, for the freedom and happiness of the people and for the communist ideology. It illustrates President Ho's resolute opposition to imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. It also reflects his firm belief in the victory of

the anti-U.S. fight for national salvation in particular, and the revolution in general.

President Ho's will generates a great revolutionary optimism and reflects the serene mind of a man who, as he is about to depart from this world, has done "nothing that I am sorry to have done."

Modesty and simplicity, which characterizes President Ho's virtues, once again are fully reflected in his will. Although he was the top leader of the party and nation and the father of all of us, President Ho advised us in the friendly, equal and democratic manner of a comrade, a friend. Although he had made a great contribution to our nation -- not our nation alone -- he said nothing about it. Although he had served the fatherland, the revolution and the people for more than 60 years, when he was about to leave this world he still expressed his "regret not to be able to serve longer and more."

His deep compassion and love for the people is expressed throughout his will. Our people have for ages suffered untold hardships because of feudal and colonial exploitation and oppression, and have furthermore experienced many years of war. Yet, they have proved to be very brave in combat and diligent in production. Since our party came into being, our people have loyally followed it on the revolutionary path to achieve self-liberation. President Ho had a boundless compassion and love for the people. It was because of this that he had devoted his whole life to the task of liberating the people and bring happiness to the people. When he departed from this world, he said:

"Finally, to the entire people, party and army, and to all my nephews and nieces -- youths and children -- I leave my boundless affection."

These affectionate words from President Ho have deeply moved each and everyone of us.

President Ho's will reflects his devotion to the revolution, the working class and the people of Vietnam, and to all people, comrades and friends throughout the world.

President Ho's mind was as clear as crystal. His life was indeed perfect. Through his will appears his image as a man, great but simple, a man of noble revolutionary quality, representing the best traditions and the quintessence of the Vietnamese nation shown throughout 4,000 years of history and combined with the full revolutionary ideology of the working class, the Marxist-Leninist ideology. This is the model of the communist fighter, the revolutionary in our times: persistent, undaunted, independent, imaginative, creative, diligent, thrifty, honest, upright, righteous, impartial, modest and simple.

President Ho's will generates the noble communist humanitarianism. His world concept and philosophy of life are fully reflected in his will.

His world concept was the scientific world concept of Marxism-Leninism. His philosophy of life was entirely revolutionary in that it regarded fighting for the freedom and well being of the people and for socialism as the reason for living.

President Ho's will has a very broad significance and is highly principled. It is a document clear in reason and perfect in sentiment.

In President Ho's will, his great thoughts and principles were expressed with simple, rich and clear words added with some witty comments. The fact that his will was written shortly before he departed from this world has all the more underlined his revolutionary optimism and his noble revolutionary philosophy of life.

President Ho was the great leader of the working class and the people of Vietnam, an undaunted and outstanding fighter of the international communist movement and of the national liberation movement. The people of the world consider President Ho a symbol of the struggle for national independence and freedom of all peoples, and a symbol of all the best qualities of our times. President Ho's last instructions have a great significance. Our party and people highly value his will. The communist parties, working class and people in other countries in the world also have a high regard for his will. Comrade Nosaka Sando, chairman of the Japanese communist party, spoke of President Ho's will as follows: "Comrade Ho Chi Minh left his will not only to the Vietnamese people but also to all communists in the world, all peoples fighting against imperialism and all peace-loving people in the world. After reading comrade Ho Chi Minh's will, every communist in the world would be persuaded to do something."

Parting from us, President Ho left us his extremely important instructions on the anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation, on the building of socialism, on the training of the younger generation to continue the revolution, on national unity and on international unity. Concluding his will, he expressed his last wish that:

"Our entire party and people unite closely and strive to build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and prosperous Vietnam, and make a worthy contribution to the world revolution."

Let us strive to study and implement President Ho's will, consolidate the working class' stand, develop our revolutionary sentiments and will, strengthen the unity and increase the combat strength of our entire party, army and people, transform grief into revolutionary action, lead the anti-U.S. fight for national salvation and the building of socialism to complete victory, contribute worthily to the revolutionary cause of the people of the world, and make President Ho's last wish a reality."

Let all of us, cadres and party members, always remember the following instruction of President Ho:

"Our party is a party in power. Each party member, each cadre must be deeply imbued with revolutionary ethics, and must show diligence, thriftiness, integrity, uprightness, justice and impartiality. Our party must preserve its purity and remain worthy of its role as the leader and loyal servant of the people."

Let us pledge to do our best to imbue ourselves with revolutionary ethics in order to be worthy of being cadres and members of our party, which was founded by President Ho, and worthy of our heroic people. Let us pledge our determination to implement President Ho's will and to carry out the vows made by comrade Le Duan, first secretary of the Party Central Executive Committee, on behalf of our entire party and people at the solemn ceremony in memory of President Ho on Ba Dinh Square.

Let our entire party, army and people pledge to be forever loyal to President Ho and to strive forever under his glorious banner.

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