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CONTENTS

- Resolutions of the 8th session of the
National Assembly (10th Legislature) 1
- Fifty Five Years
of Hồ Chí Minh Diplomacy -
A Glorious Stage in History 16
- The Rescue
of the Cambodian People
from Genocide for National Revival -
the Vietnamese People's Noble
International Cause
in the 20th Century 25
- Chronology of 2001 (January) 32

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

As Vietnam proceeds with *doi moi* (renovation) and continues its open-door policy, there is an increasing need for current and relevant information about Vietnam in an easily accessible format. This new publication, *Files on Vietnam*, seeks to meet this need.

The number of foreigners who are interested in Vietnam as a promising land for doing business and as an attractive tourist destination is increasing daily. As Vietnam reaches out to befriend other nations for independent and peaceful co-existence and development, precise and accurate information will help to cement the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and the rest of the world.

This bi-monthly series *Files on Vietnam* is meant by Thế Giới Publishers to furnish interested readers with open and up-to-date material about all aspects of this country. Each issue is in fact a collection of translations of overviews, reports, statistical data from various branches and industries, and legal documents relevant to foreign residents in Vietnam.

It is hoped that the *Files on Vietnam* will be a help to foreign policy makers, businessmen, researchers, tourists and students. Any comments or suggestions for improving the series will be highly appreciated.

Thế Giới Publishers

RESOLUTIONS OF THE 8TH SESSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (10TH LEGISLATURE)

(Nhân Dân Daily, 21 December 2000)

The 8th session of the 10th National Assembly took place in Hanoi from November 14th to December 9th, 2000. At this session, the National Assembly discussed and subsequently adopted the following Resolutions: Resolution N° 39/2000/QH10 on the tasks for the year 2001; Resolution N° 40/2000/QH10 on the renewal of the general education programme; Resolution N° 41/2000/QH on the universalization of secondary education; and the Resolution N° 42/2000/QH on the 2001 programme for the drafting of laws and ordinances. Following is the full text of the aforementioned Resolutions.

RESOLUTION ON THE TASKS FOR THE YEAR 2001

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Pursuant to Article 84 of the 1992 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,

Having considered the Reports presented by the Government and relevant agencies and opinions contributed by National Assembly Deputies,

RESOLVES

The National Assembly approves of the assessment of the performance of the tasks set for the year 2000, and the orientations and tasks laid down for the year 2001 as well as the targets and solutions presented in the Reports by the Government and relevant agencies, and lays special emphasis on the following issues:

I. Assessment of the situation in 2000

In 2000, our entire Party, people and Army managed to surmount multi-faceted difficulties

and challenges, especially those caused by destructive natural calamities, and strived to score significant achievements. We successfully reversed the decline in economic growth; fulfilled or outperformed the major targets; enhanced investment capital, productivity and the socio-economic infrastructure; and further improved the socialist-oriented market economic institutions. Political stability and social security were firmly maintained. External relations were expanded.

However, the progress made in redressing the inherent weaknesses of the economy remains limited; the productivity, performance and efficiency of the economy remain limited, and its competitiveness low. Social evils, crimes and traffic accidents are still on the rise. Undemocratic practices, corruption, extravagancy, red tape and power abuse have yet to be checked. Complicated developments are still recorded in citizens' complaints. Breakthroughs have yet to be made in administrative reforms.

II. Overall objectives and major targets for the year 2001

Overall objectives:

As the first year of the 21st century and the new millennium, 2001 is a year of great importance as it is the stepping-stone for the implementation of the 2001-2005 five-year plan and the 2001-2010 ten-year strategy for socio-economic development, a year full of both opportunities and challenges.

The overarching objectives of the year 2001 are as follows: to record a high and sustainable economic growth rate in parallel with a dramatic development in the socio-cultural fields; to better address urgent social issues such as job creation, hunger eradication and poverty reduction, social evils prevention,

and traffic accident control; to develop education and training; to accelerate scientific research and technological renewal and application; to renew the management mechanism; to satisfactorily address citizens' complaints and denunciations; to ensure social order and discipline; and to firmly maintain political stability.

Major targets:

1. GDP grows by 7.5%;
2. Agriculture, forestry and fishery production value grows by 4.5%;
3. Industrial production value grows by 14%;
4. The value of the service sector grows by 7%;
5. The total export turnover grows by 16%;
6. The total investment capital of the whole society accounts for 30% of the GDP;
7. Inflation rate is kept below 5%;
8. Creation of about 1.4 million new jobs;
9. Vocational training for 840,000 people;
10. The percentage of hunger- and poverty-stricken households is reduced to 16% (by the new standards)¹;
11. Reduction of the birth rate by 0.05%.

III. Major tasks and solutions

1. Economic field

a) Agriculture

To further transform the agricultural economic structure in the direction towards the

¹ By the old standards, hunger - and poverty - stricken households are those with a monthly income per capita of VND 45,000, VND 70,000 and VND 100,000 (according to specific local conditions). By the new standards, hunger- and poverty-stricken households are those with a monthly income per capita of VND 80,000, VND 100,000 and VND 150,000 (according to specific local conditions). By these standards, our country's current percentage of hunger- and poverty-stricken households stands at 17.5%.

establishment of valuable and high-yield plants and animals raising zones in accordance with specific comparative advantages and consumption market so as to meet the demands for materials of the domestic processing industries and gradually cut down on imports. To ensure food security.

To restore and develop traditional craft villages and small and medium enterprises in rural areas.

To give priority to investment in the cross-breeding and production of various plants and animals. To give priority to investment in manufacturing industries in service of agriculture, biotechnology and post-harvest processing technology with a view to improving the quality and value of agricultural produce and aquatic products meeting the demands for domestic consumption and export.

b) Industry

To promote industrial development in favour of technological renewal, full exploitation of internal resources and import of state-of-the-art technology. To apply scientific and technological advances to production, especially the production of exports. To develop high-quality commodities with Vietnamese trademarks.

c) Reform of enterprises and cooperatives

To remove obstacles to the operation of State-owned enterprises. To conduct initial review of the performance of equitization, sale and quota mechanism and hire of a segment of SOEs so as to draw necessary experiences to better implement the overall policy in this regard. To resolve the insolvency of protracted loss-making SOEs.

To review the transformation and rationalization of cooperatives in conformity

with the Law on Cooperatives; to resolve once and for all the outstanding debts owed by agricultural cooperatives designated for debt handling. To attach importance to the training of cadres for cooperatives. To adopt sound policies to facilitate investment expansion by cooperatives receiving credit loans.

To create favourable conditions for enterprises from all economic sectors to have access to markets and fresh sources of capital and technology.

d) Commerce and services

To consolidate the domestic market and gain new market access to overseas ones; to make timely forecast of price developments and overseas market demands. To take more demand-stimulation measures to promote the consumption of home-made commodities. To attach additional importance to the struggle against smuggling and trade fraud. To rectify the importation of motorbikes to curb traffic accidents and environmental pollution. To make active groundwork for the process of integration into the regional and global economy.

To invest in the development of post and telecommunication, tourism and high-tech services. To improve the operational efficiency of the transport services with priority given to the aviation and maritime transport services; to expand the insurance, legal consultancy, financial and banking services.

e) Development investment

To intensify the management of investment planning, zoning, preparation and decision-making; to redress the practice of scattered and inefficient investment. To expedite the promulgation of the Ordinance on Tender.

To mobilize all resources so as to boost investment. To give priority to investment in the development of infrastructural facilities in particularly disadvantaged areas and the manufacturing industry and the projects bound to be put into operation within this year.

To accelerate the implementation pace of important national projects, namely the Dung Quất Oil Refinery N^o 1, Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Gas-and Electricity-powered Fertilizer Plant and the programme for regreening five million hectares of forest. To make early preparations for a number of new projects to be submitted to the National Assembly.

To effectively implement the national targeted programmes and renew the managerial mechanism to enhance the efficiency of the national targeted programmes carried out in each locality.

f) Finance and banking

To satisfactorily implement the Resolution on the State budget estimate for 2001 and make good use of national financial resources; to strive to reduce State budget deficit.

To finalize the scheme on the restructure of the system of State commercial banks and commence its implementation from the very beginning of 2001. To separate preferential credit from commercial ones and expedite the establishment of policy banks. To enhance the quality of credit and the decision-making autonomy of credit organizations in seeking and making investment in projects. To reduce the ratio of overdue debts and timely resolve the overdue debts unlikely to be repaid.

2. Education & training, culture & information, physical training and sports

To effectively enforce the Law on Education. To ensure the quality of proper age-

based universalization of primary education. To implement the universalization of secondary education and renewal of the curriculum of primary and secondary education. To pay attention to developing and raising the educational quality of professional high schools, vocational schools, key and national universities.

To improve the performance of cultural and information activities aimed at facilitating the implementation of national political tasks. To accelerate the campaign for all-people united participation in building a cultured lifestyle.

To develop the movement for popular physical training and sports and high-performance sports and lay the groundwork for the hosting of the 22nd SEA GAMES in Vietnam in 2003.

3. Social issues

To adopt uniform policies to generate finance for grassroots-level public healthcare; to promote the diversification of the forms of healthcare services. To devise a consistent mechanism for the practice of low-fee and free-of-charge medical examination and treatment for poor people.

To concentrate on implementation of the programme for reproductive healthcare, family planning and malnutrition prevention, especially in disadvantaged areas and localities with high birth rate.

To further enforce the mechanism for allowance rendered to victims of the Agent Orange.

To enforce the Law on drug-related crime prevention and combat. To take drastic measures to prevent and combat HIV/AIDS and other social evils.

To make good use of investment capital earmarked for the programmes for job creation,

hunger eradication and poverty reduction. To diversify the forms of, and market access for labour export with priority given to the export of skilled labourers and experts.

To satisfactorily implement the preferential policies towards people with service rendered to the country. To expedite the research on the reform of the payment regime and social security policy.

4. Science & technology and environmental protection

To renew the mechanism for the management of science and technology in conformity with the Law on Science and Technology. To attach importance to investment in the development and application of scientific and technological advances to production, especially in rural and mountainous areas. To implement policies conducive to investment in the development of biotechnology, information technology, especially the software industry, so as to facilitate scientific and technological development. To take necessary measures for the management of budget utilization in order to ensure the proper and efficient development of science and technology.

To intensify State management of technological transfer, technological and environmental evaluation of investment projects and supervision of imported technology and facilities.

To address the urgent issues of environmental protection and apply sanctions against serious polluter enterprises. To streamline the agencies for the State management of science, technology and environment at all levels.

5. Ethnic minorities and mountainous areas

To bring into play the self-reliance spirit of ethnic minority people so as to effectively

implement the programmes for socio-economic development, especially the new programme N^o. 135¹. To extend assistance in terms of State budget-funded investment capital to disadvantaged areas in order to stabilize people's life and control spontaneous emigration. To exercise effective management of, and combat extravagance and corruption in the utilization of investment capital earmarked for mountainous and ethnic minority areas.

To adjust regulations on price and fee subsidy for mountainous, island and ethnic minority areas. To make adequate budget allocations in favour of the following policies: to give top priority to, and earmark essential necessities for the most disadvantaged areas. To extend freight transport fee-related subsidy to the hubs of communes and of commune clusters.

To consolidate and intensify the programme for illiteracy eradication, universalization of primary education and enhancement of people's intellectual standard in ethnic minority areas. To implement the mechanism for designation and enrolment in conformity with the Law on Education; to consolidate the boarding schools for ethnic minorities and expand the semi-boarding schools.

6. Prevention and relief of natural calamities

To direct efforts to the relief of the aftermath of natural calamities, not least in the Mekong River Delta, Central Vietnam and northern mountainous provinces. To devise a

1. The new programme N^o 135 represents the integration of the projects on sedentary farming and resettling, assistance to the particularly disprivileged ethnic minorities, and the programmes for the establishment of the cluster of concentrated communes into the programme for socio-economic development in the particularly disadvantaged communes in mountainous, remote and far-flung areas.

comprehensive and long-term master plan for, and increase investment in the prevention and relief of natural calamities with priority given to flood-control facilities. To devise population zoning and extend housing-related guidance and assistance to people. To make adequate adjustments to the plant and animal structure. To exercise reduction and exemption of agricultural land-use tax so as to facilitate the consumption of agricultural produce made by people in natural calamity worst-hit areas.

7. The judiciary branch

To facilitate the sufficient and timely promulgation of legal dispatches guiding the consistent enforcement of laws, especially the Penal Code and the amended and supplemented Law on a number of Articles of the Criminal Litigation Code. To intensify coordination in law enforcement on the basis of proper execution of the functions and tasks of the law-enforcing agencies in arrest, detention, investigation, prosecution and trial and sentence execution in order to let no criminal go unpunished and to avoid the imposition of injustice on innocent people. To take effective measures to resolve the outstanding cases. To redress the wrongdoings in the execution of sentences and reverse the tendency towards criminalization of civil and economic disputes and vice versa.

To intensify the examination and inspection by senior judiciary agencies with regard to junior ones. To identify the true causes of wrongdoings committed within law-enforcing agencies as well as the causes and premises of law breaking and criminal incidents so as to make timely recommendations on punitive measures.

To streamline the apparatus and renew the organization and operation of the judiciary

agencies. To attach importance to training and raising the sense of responsibility and integrity of law enforcers; to timely take strict and punitive measures against wrongdoers and morally degraded elements in order to clean up the contingent of cadres and civil servants in these agencies. To provide adequate fundings and material conditions to ensure the satisfactory performance of law-enforcing agencies.

8. The handling of complaints and denunciations

To enforce the Law on Complaints and Denunciations and the Regulation on democratic practice at the grassroots-level in a satisfactory manner. To enhance the responsibility of the administrative and judiciary agencies at all levels and the presiding officials in the handling of citizens' complaints and denunciations. To direct efforts to resolve once and for all protracted, urgent and scandalous incidents; to timely address newly emerging complaints and denunciations. To take adequate measures to control mass and level-bypassing complaints and denunciations. To take strict sanctions against cadres and civil servants irresponsible in the handling of complaints and denunciations or disobedient to the rulings made by their superiors. On the other hand, to apply strict sanctions against those abusing the democratic rights to complaints and denunciations to incite social disorder and insecurity.

The bodies of the National Assembly, delegations of National Assembly Deputies, National Assembly Deputies and members of the People's council at all levels are to further enhance the responsibility of the elected bodies and representatives in the contact with citizens and supervision of the handling of citizens complaints and denunciations.

9. External relations

To further implement the foreign policy of openness, multilateralization and diversification of external relations, and promotion of the external economic relations in order to enhance Vietnam's standing and profile in the international arena and create favourable environment and conditions to accelerate national socio-economic development.

To perfect the mechanism for the State unified management of external activities. To bring into play the synergy of State diplomatic activities, people-to-people and party-to-party relations conducted by people and socio-political organizations from the central to local levels. To encourage overseas Vietnamese to take an active part in the course of national development.

10. National defence & security and social order & safety

To be on high alert, ready and well-versed of the situation so as to effectively deal with any incidents to firmly safeguard national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. To take active preventive measures and resolutely crack down on elements likely to incite political instability and social insecurity and disorder.

To take firm and concerted measures to curb traffic accidents and resolve traffic jams in Hanoi and Hồ Chí Minh City.

To marry socio-economic development with the consolidation and build-up of our national defence and security capability, and the guaranty of combat readiness. To improve the efficiency of scientific and technological research and application in this regard. To closely coordinate national defence and security activities with external relations. To attach importance to building an all-people

defence in parallel with the all-people security disposition and strengthening the political foundation. To enhance the performance of State management over national defence and security.

To enhance the integrated power and readiness in the fulfillment of the tasks of the people's armed forces. To promote the pivotal role of the people's armed forces in the development of economic-defence zones and prevention and relief of natural calamities.

11. Administrative reforms

To further accelerate administrative reforms. To take resolute steps to restructure the apparatus of the State management agencies in favour of downsizing the staff and raising its efficiency. To clearly delineate the functions, tasks and responsibility of administrative agencies at all levels, especially power decentralization between the Central and local echelons. To build a contingent of competent cadres and civil servants. To rectify the examination for civil-servant recruitment.

To raise the sense of responsibility and promote the activeness of the State management agencies at all levels in administration. To reform the administrative procedures and modes to facilitate the effective and timely handling of work at all levels.

To take firm and effective measures to ensure the strict implementation of the policy to practice thrift and combat red tape, extravagance and corruption; to apply strict sanctions against wrongdoers among cadres and civil servants no matter what post they hold.

IV - Implementation

The Government and relevant branches at all levels are to further enhance the management

and leadership efficiency, renew the implementation methods and promote discipline and compliance in the implementation of the National Assembly Resolution on the tasks for the year 2001.

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly, National Council, National Assembly Committees, Delegations of the NA Deputies, and NA Deputies themselves are to closely oversee the implementation of this Resolution.

The Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF) and other affiliate organizations of the VFF are to solicit popular support from all social strata for the satisfactory implementation of the NA Resolution.

* *
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The National Assembly calls on people and combatants throughout the country as well as our overseas compatriots to build on the success of the 6th National Emulation Congress, hold aloft the spirit of patriotism and national unity and surmount all difficulties and ordeals with a view to materialising the tasks set for the year 2001 from the very beginning of implementation so as to record more achievements at the threshold of the 9th National Party Congress.

This Resolution was adopted by the 10th Legislature of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at its 8th Session on December 9th 2000.

Chairman of the National Assembly

NÔNG ĐỨC MẠNH

(signed)

RESOLUTION ON THE RENEWAL OF THE CURRICULUM OF GENERAL EDUCATION

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Pursuant to Article 84 of the 1992 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam;

Pursuant to the Law on Education;

Having considered the Government's Proposal on the renewal of the curriculum of general education and the evaluation Report made by the National Assembly Committee for Education & Culture, Youths and Adolescents and the comments contributed by the National Assembly Deputies,

RESOLVES

To approve of the Government's proposal on the renewal of the curriculum of general education with particular emphasis put on the following points:

I. The goal of the renewal of the curriculum of general education

The renewal of the curriculum of general education is aimed at the following: to devise new curricula, methods of teaching and textbooks to improve the quality of all-round education of youths with a view to meeting the demands for human resource development in service of national industrialization and modernization; make them suitable for Vietnam's reality and traditions and to keep pace with the general education level of the developed countries in the region and the world.

The renewal of the curriculum of general education must be conducted in full view of the requirements for educational content and methods at all levels in conformity with the regulations stipulated in the Law on Education; to redress the shortcomings and drawbacks of the existing curricula and textbooks; to improve practical skills and self-taught capacity; to attach importance to the knowledge of social sciences and humanities; to disseminate the advances in state-of-the-art science and technology suitable for the comprehension capacity of pupils.

To ensure the consistence, continuity and evolution of the educational curriculum; to enhance the linkage between general education and vocational & university education; to categorize the national education system to bring about a proportional structure of human resources; to ensure the consistence in terms of knowledge and skill standards; and to take sound measures to apply educational curricula and textbooks in accordance with specific local conditions.

The renewal of the educational curricula, textbooks and the teaching and learning methods must be conducted in parallel with the upgradation and renewal of the teaching facilities, evaluation methods, examination organization and standardization of educational institutions, training of teachers, and educational management.

II. The pace of the renewal of general education curriculum

The compilation of educational curricula and textbooks, pilot implementation and review work must be thoroughly and rapidly conducted so as to meet the abovesaid objectives; to gradually implement the broad-based

application of new educational curricula and textbooks at the 1st and 6th grades from the 2002-2003 school year, and at the 10th grade from the 2004-2005 school year; by the 2006-2007 school year, new educational curricula and textbooks will have been applied to all end-level grades.

III. Implementation of the renewal of the general education curriculum

1 - The Government is assigned with the implementation of the renewal of the general education curriculum and make annual reports on its implementation outcome and pace to be submitted to the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

The Ministry of Education and Training is tasked to mobilize and solicit the participation of scientists, pedagogues and educational administrators well-versed in general education and excellent teachers in the compilation, experiment and evaluation of the new educational curriculum and textbooks as well as the guidance on their application in various localities; to devise schemes for foreign language and informatics teaching and learning at schools; to renew the educational curriculum of teachers training schools and faculties; to promote training to make teachers qualified for teaching in accordance with the new educational curriculum and textbooks; to give instructions to localities on the establishment and development of technical high schools so as to make pupils competent in both high-school educational level and professional knowledge and skills; to implement post-high school categorization.

The Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Government

Personnel Board and other line agencies and branches are to collaborate with the Ministry of Education and Training to ensure satisfactory material conditions, financial resources, staff quota for and social policy towards teachers in order to facilitate the effective renewal of the general education curriculum.

The provincial People's committees and centrally-governed cities are to guide the local implementation of the renewal of the general education curriculum; to build a contingent of teachers sufficient in quantity, uniform in structure and qualified for the criteria on training as provided for by the Law on Education; to upgrade and build educational institutions and facilities in favour of standardization.

The Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and the affiliate organizations of the VFF are to supervise the implementation of the renewal of the general education curriculum.

2 - The Standing Committee and the Committee for Culture, Education, Youths and Adolescents of the National Assembly are assigned with the supervision of the implementation of the renewal of the general education curriculum; the National Council, National Assembly Committees, Delegations of NA Deputies, NA Deputies, People's councils at all levels and People's council representatives are assigned with the implementation of the renewal of the general education curriculum within the boundary of their authority.

This Resolution was adopted by the 10th Legislature of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at its 8th Session on December 9th, 2000.

Chairman of the National Assembly

NÔNG ĐỨC MẠNH

(signed)

RESOLUTION ON THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

Pursuant to Article 84 of the 1992 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,

Having considered the Government's Proposal on the renewal of the general educational curriculum and the evaluation report made by the National Assembly Committee for Culture, Education, Youths and Adolescents and the comments contributed by National Assembly Deputies,

RESOLVES

To approve of the Government's proposal on the implementation of the nationwide universalization of secondary education from 2001 to 2010 with particular emphasis put on the following points:

I. Goals of the universalization of secondary education

The universalization of secondary education in the 2001-2010 period is aimed at ensuring the pursuit of secondary education by most of primary school graduates before reaching the age of 18, meeting the demands for enhancement of people's intellectual level, development of human resource and nurture of talents in service of the cause of national industrialization and modernization.

The universalization of secondary education must meet the following criteria:

1 - With regard to communes, wards and towns:

- To ensure the continuation and consolidation of the outcome and the materialisation of the objectives of primary education universalization.

- To ensure the secondary enrolment rate of over 95% among primary school graduates in general, and of over 80% in socially and economically disadvantaged and particularly disadvantaged communes.

- To improve the quality of all-round education at the secondary level; to reduce the repetition and drop-out rates to ensure a 90%-plus graduation rate among secondary pupils every year and 75%-plus graduation rate in socially and economically disadvantaged and particularly disadvantaged communes.

- To ensure an 80%-plus rate of fulfillment of the secondary level among people aged from 15 to 18, and a 70%-plus rate in socially and economically disadvantaged and particularly disadvantaged communes.

2 - With regard to districts, towns and provincial cities:

To ensure that 90% of the communes, wards and towns meet the target of universalization of secondary education.

3 - With regard to provinces and centrally-governed cities:

To ensure that 100% of the districts, towns and provincial cities meet the target of universalization of secondary education.

II. The responsibility of citizens, families, organizations and the Government in

the universalization of secondary education

1 - Citizens under the coverage of secondary education universalization have the right and duty to study to accomplish the secondary education level before passing the age of 18.

2 - Families have the responsibility to facilitate the academic pursuit by family members under the age of 18 to accomplish the secondary education level.

3 - The Government is to adopt appropriate policies to ensure satisfactory conditions in terms of teachers, educational institutions, facilities and fundings so as to universalize secondary education; to further exercise the collection of tuition fees at the secondary level while practise reduction and exemption of tuition fees for poor pupils and social security beneficiaries; to provide free-of-charge textbooks and educational facilities for particularly disprivileged pupils.

4 - The Government encourages organizations and individuals to render service and financial contributions to the universalization of secondary education.

5 - The Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and the affiliate organizations of the VFF are to mobilize all-people participation in the implementation and supervision of the universalization of secondary education.

III. Implementation of the universalization of secondary education

1 - The Government is assigned with guiding the implementation of the universalization of secondary education; guiding the Ministry of Education and Training and relevant ministries

and branches, and the People's committees of provinces and centrally-governed cities to implement the universalization of secondary education; ensuring satisfactory conditions in terms of fundings, teaching staff quota, upgradation and establishment of educational institutions and facilities in favour of standardization on par with the criteria for universalization of secondary education.

2 - The Standing Committee of the National Assembly and the NA Committee for Culture, Education, Youths and Adolescents are assigned with the supervision of implementation of the universalization of secondary education; the National Council, National Assembly Committees, Delegations of the National Assembly Deputies, NA Deputies, People's councils at all levels and representatives of the People's Council are to oversee the implementation of the universalization of secondary education within the boundary of their authority.

This Resolution was adopted by the 10th Legislature of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at its 8th session on December 9th, 2000.

Chairman of the National Assembly

NÔNG ĐỨC MẠNH

(signed)

RESOLUTION ON THE PROGRAMME FOR LAW AND ORDINANCE BUILDING IN 2001

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Pursuant to Article 84 of the 1992 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,

Pursuant to Article 62 and Article 63 of the Law on the Organization of the National Assembly, and Article 22 of the Law on the promulgation of legal documents,

Having considered the Proposal No. 286/UBTVQH10 dated November 6th 2000 of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly on the tentative programme for law and ordinance building in 2001 and the comments contributed by the National Assembly Deputies,

RESOLVES

Article 1

To adopt the programme for law and ordinance building in 2001 as follows:

1. The composition of the programme for law building

** At the 9th Session (in mid-2001):*

- a) To submit to the National Assembly for comment a number of amended and supplemented Articles of the 1992 Constitution on the organization of the State apparatus and to establish the Constitution amending committee.
- b) To submit to the National Assembly for adoption the following projects:
 - 1 - The amended and supplemented Law on a number of Articles of the Law on land;

- 2 - The Law on fire prevention and fire fighting;
 - 3 - The Law on cultural heritage;
 - 4 - The Law on customs;
 - 5 - The Law on road-based traffic;
 - 6 - The amended Law on Article 145 of the Criminal Litigation Code;
- c) To submit to the National Assembly's sessions for consideration and comment the following law drafts;
- 1- The Law on social insurance;
 - 2- The amended and supplemented Law on a number of Articles of the Labour Code.
- d) To collect the opinions of the National Assembly Deputies during discussions held at the local delegations of National Assembly Deputies on the amendment and supplementation to a number of Articles of the 1992 Constitution on the organization of the State apparatus with regard to the following projects:
- 1 - The amended Law on the organization of the National Assembly;
 - 2 - The amended Law on the organization of the Government;
 - 3 - The amended Law on the organization of the People's Court;
 - 4 - The amended Law on the organization of the People's Procuracy
 - 5- The amended Law on the organization of the People's council and People's committee;
 - 6- The amended and supplemented Law on a number of Articles of the Law on the election of National Assembly Deputies;
 - 7- The amended Law on the election of People's council representatives;

** At the 10th Session (at the end of 2001):*

- a) To submit to the National Assembly for adoption the Resolution on the amendment and supplementation to a number of Articles of the 1992 Constitution on the organization of the State apparatus
- b) To submit to the National Assembly for adoption the following projects:
- 1- The amended Law on the organization of the National Assembly;
 - 2- The amended Law on the organization of the Government;
 - 3- The amended Law on the organization of the People's Court;
 - 4- The amended Law on the organization of the People's Procuracy;
 - 5- The amended Law on the organization of the People's council and People's committee;
 - 6- The amended and supplemented Law on a number of Articles of the Law on the election of National Assembly Deputies;
 - 7- The amended Law on the election of representatives of the People's council.
- c) To collect the opinions of the National Assembly Deputies in the local Delegations of NA Deputies on the following projects:
- 1- The amended Law on Enterprise Bankruptcy;
 - 2- The amended Law on State-owned enterprises;
 - 3- The Law on accounting;
 - 4- The amended Law on corporate tax;
 - 5- The amended Law on Value Added Tax;
 - 6- The amended and supplemented Law on a number of Articles of the Law on State budget;

2. The Standing Committee of the National Assembly is assigned with the consideration and subsequent adoption of the Ordinance and Resolution projects as follows:

a) The official programme:

- 1- The amended Ordinance on lawyers;
- 2- The Ordinance on Tender;
- 3- The Ordinance on fees and costs;
- 4- The amended Ordinance on the execution of civil sentences;
- 5- The amended Ordinance on the sanction of administrative infringement;
- 6- The Ordinance on religion;
- 7- The amended Ordinance on veterinary medicine;
- 8- The amended Ordinance on botanical protection and epidemiological examination;
- 9- The amended Ordinance on economic contract;
- 10- The amended Ordinance on the protection and exploitation of irrigational facilities;
- 11- The amended Ordinance on the safeguard of national archives;
- 12- The Ordinance on ciphering;
- 13- The Ordinance on Most Favoured Nation status, national treatment and self-defence measures to cope with injustice in international trade;
- 14- The Ordinance on advertisement;
- 15- The Ordinance on judicial examination and evaluation;
- 16- The amended and supplemented Ordinance on a number of Articles of the Ordinance on income tax imposed on high-income earners;
- 17- The Resolution on civil housing transactions pertaining to foreign factors constituted prior to 1st July 1991.

b) The stand-by programme:

- 1- The amended Ordinance on the practice of private medical and pharmaceutical services;
- 2- The Ordinance on post and telecommunication;
- 3- The Ordinance on breeds of plants and animals;
- 4- The Ordinance on food;
- 5- The Ordinance on the management of national reserves;

c) The preparatory programme:

- 1- The Ordinance on the prevention and combat against prostitution;
- 2- The Ordinance on commercial arbitration;
- 3- The Ordinance on industrial promotion;
- 4- The Ordinance on procedures for the arrest of maritime ships;
- 5- The Ordinance on prices;
- 6- The Ordinance on population;
- 7- The Ordinance on security guard.

Article 2

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly is assigned with laying the groundwork for the establishment of the Constitution amending Committee to be submitted to the National Assembly for approval; to guide the line agencies to make preparations for the scheme on the amendment and supplementation to a number of Articles of the 1992 Constitution on the organization of the State apparatus and the laws on the organization of the State apparatus.

Article 3

1- The Standing Committee of the National Assembly is assigned with the guidance for the implementation of the programme for law and ordinance building in 2001. In case of extreme

necessity, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly may make amendments and supplementations to the programme for law and ordinance building and report to the National Assembly subsequently.

2- Agencies assigned with the draft and submission of the law and ordinance projects are to devise concrete implementation plans to ensure the proper pace, procedure and quality of the submission of the project as well as the timely promulgation of legal documents guiding their implementation.

3- The National Council and the Committees of the National Assembly are to actively collaborate with the drafting agencies so as to enhance the quality of the projects and evaluation reports; to fulfil the role of a think-tank for the National Assembly and the Standing Committee of the National Assembly in the consideration and passing of law and ordinance projects; to intensify the supervision of the promulgation of legal documents guiding the

implementation of laws and ordinances in order to ensure the consistent enforcement of laws.

4- The Standing Committee of the National Assembly and the Government are to conduct frequent examination and supervision of the line agencies in the implementation of the programme; to intensify law dissemination and education to ensure the early practical enforcement of laws and ordinances; to conduct further research on the renewal of the process of law and ordinance building and adoption with priority given to the renewal of the process of law passing so as to pass many laws at the conventions of the National Assembly while ensuring the quality of legal documents.

This Resolution was adopted by the 10th Legislature of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at its 8th Session on December 9th, 2000.

Chairman of the National Assembly

NÔNG ĐỨC MẠNH

(signed)

FIFTY FIVE YEARS OF HỒ CHÍ MINH DIPLOMACY - A GLORIOUS STAGE IN HISTORY

NGUYỄN MẠNH CẨM
*CPV Politburo Member and
Deputy Prime Minister*

The success of the August Revolution and the founding of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in 1945 opened a new era for the Vietnamese people, an era of independence, freedom and advance towards socialism. These great events also laid the foundation for modern Vietnamese diplomacy or Hồ Chí Minh diplomacy.

Over the last 55 years Vietnamese diplomacy has marched on a path rugged but full of brilliant achievements, which is closely attached to the nation's hard but glorious struggles.

THE HARD AND STAUNCH BEGINNING OF THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE YOUNG REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT

On September 2nd 1945, President Hồ Chí Minh proclaimed the *Declaration of Independence*. It was the first important diplomatic message sent by Vietnam to the world to assert that "*Vietnam has the right to be a free and independent country and in fact it is so already. The entire Vietnamese people are determined to mobilise all their physical and mental strength, to sacrifice their lives and property in order to safeguard their independence and freedom.*"

From the very first days after the success of the Revolution, the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) confirmed its foreign policy pursuing peaceful and friendly relations with all the nations in the world, asserting that Vietnam was willing to strike "*friendly relations with all countries that respect Vietnam's independence*"* The

* Documents of the National Party Conference in Tân Trào, 13th - 15th August 1945.

Party Standing Central Committee on November 11th 1945 instructed that we should *"consistently carry out our diplomacy with other nations on the principle of 'equality and assistance.' Special attention should be attached to how to minimise our enemies and to maximise our friends"*. Later the interim Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam clarified in its *Announcement on Foreign Policy* that *"Vietnamese would put aside all differences in terms of political stands to strike solidarity with the people of other countries on the basis of respect for each other's territorial sovereignty to maintain peace and stability among nations of the region and the world, in observance of national independence, justice and international laws"*. This became the consistent principle of Vietnamese diplomacy throughout half a century of hard struggle. Today it still retains its value.

In those days the new independent Vietnam was just born from a nameless colony on the map of the world; our Government was still nascent; illiteracy and starvation were two "rampant enemies"; the armed forces were just formed; Vietnam was still in isolation, not yet recognized by other nations and it had to face both internal and external enemies; our nascent independence was hung by a thread. President Hồ Chí Minh exploited skilfully his tactics to force out 200,000 Chiang Kai-shek's troops to preserve our forces in coping with the French and then, to pursue the policy of "coming to terms in order to advance", to sign the Preliminary Agreements of March 6th and September 14th 1946 with France to wrest each day of

peace in all-round preparation for a long resistance to come.

These boisterous diplomatic activities in that extremely tough phase in our history were conducted under the direct instruction of President Hồ Chí Minh and contributed to successfully bringing our country out of the dangerous moments, preserving the young democratic republic. They would ever remain in our history as brilliant examples of how Vietnamese diplomacy operates in complex and difficult circumstances. Late Prime Minister Phạm Văn Đồng in his memoirs about those *"unforgettable days"* writes: *"Without Hồ Chí Minh there would be no prediction of what would come"*.

THE ANTI-FRENCH RESISTANCE AND 1954 GENEVA CONFERENCE

However much we sought for peace to firmly protect our new independence, the French imperialists kept on pushing hard, making war inevitable. The nation-wide resistance war broke out while the country was still besieged from all sides.

In order to get out of that situation and seek international sympathy and support for the just resistance war of our people, the Party and President Hồ Chí Minh himself advocated the combination of the national liberation movement with the world peace movement which was on the way of formation and development. At the same time, they called for an anti-war movement within France itself. To that end, the Vietnamese Government sent a number of Governmental envoys to Thailand, Burma (now Myanmar), India, etc., and established representative offices in Bangkok

(Thailand), New Delhi (India) and an information bureau in Rangoon (Burma) to forge a way to highlight in other countries the Vietnamese people's just cause, determination and desire for peace.

In early 1950, after the important victory in our border campaign, Vietnam took further steps to expand her international relations. On January 14th 1950, President Hồ Chí Minh stated *"Vietnam is willing to establish diplomatic relations with other countries"*. Shortly afterwards, China, the (former) Soviet Union and other socialist countries, one after the other, set up formal diplomatic ties with Vietnam, joining Vietnam with its great socialist rear and the national independent movement and the world peace movement. Since then, the precious support and assistance from the socialist countries as well as progressive peoples around the world to Vietnam unceasingly increased, ever strengthening our war of resistance, helping it make further victories.

The victory at Điện Biên Phủ resounded through the globe and Vietnamese diplomacy now had the historical task of bringing into full play the victories gained on the battlefield and putting an end to the 9-year-long war of resistance.

The Geneva Conference on Indochina was convened on May 8th 1954 and took 70 days of tough negotiations to reach an agreement that ended the war and brought peace to Indochina. The Conference also adopted the Final Declaration recognising Vietnam's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. For the first time in the history of international relations, an agreement signed by all major powers

recognised a former colony's fundamental national rights of independence, unification, territorial integrity and self-determination. The Điện Biên Phủ victory as well as the signing of the Geneva Agreements for restoration of peace in Vietnam not only brought our nation a step further in the struggle for peace and national reunification but also contributed much to speeding up the collapse of old colonialism in the world.

THE ANTI-AMERICAN WAR FOR NATIONAL SALVATION AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT TO END THE WAR AND RESTORE PEACE IN VIETNAM: A VICTORY OF THE ERA'S CONSCIENCE

After the signing of the Geneva Agreements, the US backed the establishment of the puppet government of Ngô Đình Diệm in South Vietnam in an attempt to undermine the Vietnamese people's cause of national unification. In the South (of Vietnam), they conducted one war after the other, from the special war to the localised war while pursued the war of destruction against the North. This was the biggest local war ever conducted during the time of "cold war" and the most serious challenge to the Vietnamese nation. In the North as in the South, the Vietnamese people consistently held aloft the banner of peace and independence, co-ordinating the military, political and diplomatic fronts in their indomitable fight towards the final victory.

The Resolution of the 13th Party Central Committee Plenum in January 1967 made it clear that *"To gain the total strength, we*

must step up our struggles in all the three fronts: military, political and diplomatic and combine these fronts to win". Later in its Resolution in April 1969, the Political Bureau of the Party confirmed "*Diplomacy has become an important front of strategic significance*".

The harmonic co-ordination of diplomatic activities in North and South Vietnam under the unified leadership of the Party during this phase of history was an outstanding innovation against the country's specific backdrop.

Following the 1968 Tet Offensive by our military forces and people in the South and the US's serious failure in its escalating destructive war against the North, the United States had to sit down at the negotiating table with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Paris, opening up a phase of "talking while fighting". In the end, the US had to commit to end its bombings and all other warring activities against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam from November 1st 1968. The quadripartite conference that followed included the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of South Vietnam, the United States and the Republic of Vietnam. In fact there were two forums in Paris at the time: the quadripartite conference, which was an overt forum and the covert bilateral talks between Lê Đức Thọ and Henry Kissinger. Conducted simultaneously with the developments on the battlefield, the diplomatic front spread from the negotiating table and other governmental diplomatic activities to Party and people-to-people diplomacy, setting up a world people's front broader than ever to

support and consolidate with the Vietnamese people's just struggle.

The Paris peace talks spanned over 4 years with over a hundred open sessions and many other secret meetings, which ended with the signing of the Paris Agreements to bring peace back to Vietnam on January 27th 1973. This significant victory further facilitated our struggle for the final liberation of the South and reunification of the country.

DIPLOMACY IN THE SERVICE OF THE CAUSE OF *DOI MOI* AND SAFEGUARDING OF OUR FATHERLAND

After the complete liberation and reunification of the country, the Vietnamese people were yet to enjoy the newly found peace to heal the heavy wounds of the continuous 30-year-long war. However, they were to face the dark scheme of hostile forces to put Vietnam into political isolation and to impose an economic embargo on it. At the same time, we were confronted with a protracted socio-economic crisis and with the encroachment on our national borders. To overcome all those accumulating challenges, the 6th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam in December 1986 adopted the *doi moi* (renovation) policy in order to renovate all the aspects of society. Regarding the external affairs of Vietnam, the August 1988 meeting of the CPVCC Political Bureau (6th tenure) assessed the international and regional situation as well as the requirements of the country in the new context and adopted the line of "*increasing friends and reducing enemies*".

No sooner had the *doi moi* process started than the socialist countries in Eastern Europe and the (former) Soviet Union collapsed. In other words, the key economic, political and military support to Vietnam at the time no longer existed, causing more difficulties for the country. Against that backdrop, the 7th CPV Congress adopted the new foreign policy based on "*independence and self-determination, diversification and multilateralisation of international relations*" and defined that our diplomacy has the task to "*maintain peace, to expand our friendship and co-operation relations, to create favourable international conditions for the construction and defence of our Fatherland and to make active contributions to the common struggle of the world people for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.*"

Under the wise leadership of the Party and in implementation of the Resolutions of the 6th, 7th and 8th Party Congresses as well as other Party Central Committee and Politburo decisions, especially the Resolution of the 3rd Central Committee Plenum (7th tenure) on foreign relations, Vietnamese diplomacy has been in active operation to help make the external environment work to the advantage of our national development.

The first and foremost concrete task of Vietnamese diplomacy during this stage is to *do its best to break the isolation, blockade and embargo imposed on our country and to win as many friends as possible* in order to connect Vietnam with the region and the world and rapidly move the country out of the socio-economic crisis. To that end, we advocate the policy of

"equal, mutually beneficial co-operation with all nations, regardless of socio-political regimes, on the principle of respect for independence and sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference into each other's internal affairs and peaceful co-existence" under the motto "*Vietnam wishes to be friends with all nations in the world community for peace, independence and development*".

In the implementation of these concrete tasks, we give priority to improving the relations with the neighbouring countries which share common borders with Vietnam, and with others in the region while actively seeking solutions to the outstanding issues in bilateral ties.

To create the premise for carrying out this line, first and foremost, we initially contributed to the settlement of the Cambodian problem via peaceful negotiation. Since peace was restored to Cambodia, the Vietnam-Cambodia friendship and co-operation have been seeing progress. Our special relationship and multifaceted co-operation with Laos have also been consolidated and pushed up. Sino-Vietnamese relations have been normalised and the traditional friendship and comprehensive co-operation between the two countries have been restored and developed fast to a new height within the framework set in the High-ranking Joint Communiqué in February 1999 as "*neighbourliness and friendship, comprehensive cooperation, durable stability and future outlook.*"

On the basis of our efforts to get actively closer to the region and to enhance mutual understanding, we joined the

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and supported the admission of Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar to the Association, making it a 10-member organisation covering all countries in the region and striving for solidarity and co-operation for development, and making the existence of two opposing groups of nations in this region a thing of the distant past.

Also within the framework of improved relations with our neighbouring countries, Vietnam signed the Agreement on Demarcation of the Sea Border with Thailand, agreed to have joint exploration of the overlapping zones with Malaysia, and most importantly signed the Land Border Agreement with China and is negotiating with her for an Agreement on the Demarcation of the Gulf of Tonkin. Vietnam is now also negotiating with Indonesia to seek a reasonable solution to the overlapping zones and continental shelf, negotiating with Cambodia for a final settlement of the border issues on the basis of the Agreements signed in 1983 and 1985.

At the same time, Vietnam has consolidated relations with her traditional friends and expanded her ties with countries in all continents. We now have diplomatic ties with some 167 countries including all major powers. Carrying out the policy of diversification of foreign relations, Vietnam has come to all countries whether in Asia or Europe, Africa or America or the South Pacific. In all these regions, we have been able to strike the favourable sentiments towards Vietnam among those who had once gone out to the streets as students, youths and journalists to join the demonstrations to support Vietnam and

protest the American invasion. Today they have become Ministers, Prime-ministers or Presidents of State who express their willingness to co-operate with Vietnam in her economic-development efforts. This is a real chance for us to expand our co-operation for development.

Apart from these efforts, Vietnam has also normalised her relations with international organisations including international financial-monetary institutions, the major powers of the world and thus gradually brought herself out of isolation and blockade, while maintaining peace and stability for the development of the country. In the end, the United States of America lifted its embargo against Vietnam, and then normalised its ties including diplomatic relations with Vietnam.

Since the 1970s, the science and technology revolution in the world has moved to a new phase, which has led to a high extent of internationalization of the production forces, boosted economic development and brought labour division into a stage of ever deeper and more concretized specialisation. In that context, all nations have to put their priorities and efforts into economic development and nation-building to gain the most favourable position possible in international labour division. Vietnam is not out of the process and Vietnamese diplomacy has itself been focusing thoroughly on serving economic development, doing its best to create a favourable, peaceful and stable external environment, further winning international support and assistance to compensate for the deficiency caused by the collapse of the former Soviet Union and other socialist

countries. Vietnamese diplomacy has contributed to consolidating Vietnam's overall strength and further exploiting the vast potential of the other regions. While combining economic diplomacy with political diplomacy, Vietnam diplomacy has actively participated in the expansion of Vietnam's trade relations with over 150 countries in the world, attracted direct investments from groups and companies of over 60 countries and territories, as well as ODA of some 50 countries and international financial and monetary institutions.

Fully aware of the rapid trend of globalisation and regionalisation, Vietnam has actively made solid steps in integration into the region and the world. After joining the ASEAN in July 1995, Vietnam also joined the AFTA early and had become a founder-member of ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) in March 1996, an official member of APEC in November 1996 and is conducting negotiations to join the WTO, which reflects a much deeper and broader level of our integration. Being a bridge between Vietnam and other countries in the world as well as between our nation with other nations, Vietnamese diplomacy has been the pioneer of Vietnam's integration with the understanding that integration goes parallel with maintenance of independence and sovereignty, with preservation of our cultural identity and socialist orientation. Integration to Vietnam means the making use of external strengths on the basis of maximally promoted internal ones, combination of internal and external strengths into an aggregate one to materialise industrialisation and modernisation, to consolidate our independent and self-reliant

economy, to guarantee the country's sustainable and stable development.

In the new international context, Vietnamese diplomacy has also gained important achievements in multilateral diplomacy. Vietnam's serious and dynamic participation in the various multilateral international forums and other international organisations have contributed to the settlement of a number of burning global issues, thus enhancing Vietnam's profile in the international arena.

Vietnamese diplomacy also works in close connection with other relevant branches to thwart any attempt to use "*human rights and democracy*" and lately, religious issues to interfere into Vietnam's internal affairs.

In the *doi moi* stage, Vietnamese diplomacy has made considerably contributions to building Vietnam in the socialist orientation, to the defence of the nation's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity – its permanent and key tasks, and has contributed its worthy part to the common struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress, for the friendship among nations and for a just and equitable world order.

KEY FACTORS TO SUCCESS

Vietnamese diplomacy's successes in the last half a century stemmed from the sound leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the great thoughts of President Hồ Chí Minh.

The successes are also the result of the firm comprehension and application of the

experiences gained from the revolutionary struggle of the Party and people of Vietnam, especially those from diplomatic activities throughout different stages of the new Vietnamese State from the 'unforgettable days' under the direct leadership of the genius strategist-cum-diplomat Hồ Chí Minh.

Upholding and bringing into full play the spirit of independence and self-reliance has always been a factor of decisive significance to all those diplomatic successes. Independence and self-reliance never mean a narrow-minded nationalism or isolationism. Just like the whole revolution itself, our diplomacy should primarily rest on the spirit of relying on our capabilities, using our own independent and dialectical thinking while knowing how to draw the necessary experience and knowledge of other nations and their application in the specific conditions of our country to have our own lines and actions.

In so doing, Vietnamese diplomacy must also grasp the goals, lines and strategy of the nation's revolution. It must also grasp the opportunities offered by the time, the law of the development of world situation. Proceeding from the country's demands and the developments of world situation, our diplomacy should combine its dialectical thinking with reflections of realities to define the goals, policies, orientations and measures. As such, the precise assessment and forecast of the tendency of world development and the awareness of the changes of the situation play an extremely important role in getting right decisions. This is in fact a matter of a high artistic character in revolutionary

activities in general and in diplomacy in particular.

During the wars of resistance as well as in the time of peace, our diplomacy always bridges the national strength and that of the era to make an aggregate one powerful enough to win victories in all situations.

In the anti-American resistance for national salvation, our diplomacy contributed to the co-ordination of the victories in all battlefields with the steps made at the negotiation table and with the diversified activities of the massive front of the world people supporting Vietnam, thus creating an all-round pressure that forced the enemy to step down on their warring scale until their final defeat.

During today's renovation process as well as the cause of industrialisation and modernisation, Vietnamese diplomacy attaches importance to the nation's determination and intellect with the expansion of international co-operation to make use of scientific and technological advances and the advantages of each partner to create a necessary impetus to accelerate the cause of nation building and development.

Sticking to our principles and guidelines and showing necessary flexibility in the implementation of tactics as taught by Uncle Hồ "*To uphold the consistent principle to face thousands of changes*" are the fundamental requirement and prerequisite for all future diplomatic successes.

Today in the context of rapid globalisation and regionalisation that bear both positive and negative impacts, Vietnam

should actively integrate itself and accept the rules of the game while keeping intact its independence and self-reliance, its national identity and socialist orientation to overcome any challenge and grasp any opportunity, making the best possible use of external strength to complement our internal one so as to bring our country to the similar development level of countries in the region and the world.

Peace loving, amicability and humanism are part of our national morality that constitute the humane foundations of modern Vietnamese diplomacy. Every diplomatic move that we have made throughout the many stages of our modern history bears the deep imprint of this spirit.

In the course of our thousands-of-years history, from the time immemorial, at the end of each war that our nation had to pursue to defend our independence and sovereignty, the Vietnamese people have always been ready to *"put aside the past and look to the future"*, ready to establish normal relations with all nations in the world on the basis of mutual respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference into each other's internal affairs, equitable and mutually beneficial co-operation for the development of each country and for the common development of the region and the world.

Nowadays, this great thought coincides with the trend of *"peace and co-operation"* which is an ever-consolidating trend and reflects the pressing desire of all nations. This trend therefore has a popular character and constitutes a source of strength to boost all nations' development.

We are parting the 20th century, a century that saw the Vietnam miracle and the great changes in the life of the Vietnamese, to usher in a new country and also a new millennium. It is hard to predict all that would happen but for one thing: there would be great changes. Just like the one we have lived through, the world we are going to enter will have surely unforeseeable transformations that would bring to our country, our nation and in particular Vietnamese diplomacy both big opportunities and major challenges.

To overcome all challenges and grasp all opportunities offered to develop the country becomes more than ever the top priority task of our diplomatic branch which operates as foreign policy advisor-cum-performer of our Party and State.

Reviewing the hard path our diplomacy has covered and all the successes it has gained so far thanks to an ever maturing staff, whose personal quality, professionalism and working style are being improved, we have the right to be proud for what we have done. On this basis we can strengthen our determination to uphold our principles, to grasp the guidelines of the State and Party, and to make flexible and creative tactical moves towards further victories to make worthy contributions to turning Vietnam into a wealthy nation, powerful country with an advanced and equitable society to keep up with all the advanced countries in the world community ■

**THE RESCUE OF THE
CAMBODIAN PEOPLE
FROM GENOCIDE FOR
NATIONAL REVIVAL -
THE VIETNAMESE
PEOPLE'S NOBLE
INTERNATIONAL
CAUSE IN THE
20TH CENTURY**

Maj. Gen. LÊ HAI

More than once, the 20th century witnessed the brutal outbreak of genocide but the one carried upon its own nation and people by the Pol Pot regime in the 1970s might be among the cruelest ever recorded.

The 20th century, however, also witnessed one of the rare humane and just acts ever made: the Vietnamese army and people came to the rescue of their neighbouring nation, bringing the fraternal Cambodian people back to life from that genocide, reviving a whole nation that is now trying to build its country from the deserted 'killing fields'.

To get a thorough understanding of this simple fact, I think that it is necessary to review a whole series of events required to be recorded by humankind over the last 25 years of this century until its very last days. There are events which were known immediately as they happened. But there are also those which need to be rebuilt through historical witnesses or records revealed in the course of time.

On April 17th 1975, Pol Pot occupied Phnom Penh. Citizens of Phnom Penh streamed into the streets only to face the cold look of Pol Pot's troops. Without having a chance to cheer the victory, they all had to abide by a short order to move out of the city. Men and women, old and young, teachers and monks, tradesmen and students were pushed like slaves unable to gather their belongings or other family members.

Then, Pol Pot's army landed on Phú Quốc Island in Vietnam's territory on May 3rd 1975 but had to withdraw almost immediately. In another attempt, they

invaded Vietnam's Thổ Chu Island on May 10th 1975, captured and killed over 500 civilians.

On May 20th 1975, the Central Standing Committee of Pol Pot's Party met and made three major policies: (i) to purify the Cambodian people; (ii) to identify Vietnam as the N^o 1 and hereditary enemy; and (iii) to build a new Cambodian society without market, money, school, intellectuals, religions or urban centres.

In May 1975, as a sign of those policies, the Kampuchean National Bank was blown up by a huge dynamite and Pol Pot proudly pronounced this as the canon's shot into the money stronghold. Accompanying that shot, Pol Pot Party's Central Standing Committee issued a top-secret instruction to launch a campaign to internally purge the Party itself. The instruction read: 'Even at the loss of one million people, our Party would not regret. Our Party should be strong. If only two million Kampucheans are left, we would still be able to reconstruct our country'. Further, on October 15th, a conference of the Party Central Standing Committee (PCSC) again made a decision confirming 'our policy of moving away the people is the most important policy after April 17th 1975. By doing so, we have been able to sweep away all opposing forces and gained 100% control of the country'.

On September 9th 1975, King Sihanouk returned to Cambodia from Beijing. In his memoirs 'War and Hope'¹, the King recalled that Son Sen, the then Defence Minister under the Pol Pot regime, once said

1. *War and Hope*, Hachette Publishers, Paris 1979. (This passage is retranslation from Vietnamese)

to him: In order to protect the country and race of Kampuchea from the threat of extinction, it is necessary to make three permanent surgeries on the Kampuchean body:

Firstly, never to allow any Vietnamese the right to live in Kampuchea. To that end, the measures taken by the Khmer Rouge include the killing of a large number of Vietnamese living in Cambodia who have been suspected of being lackeys for Vietnam or Việt Cộng. On the other hand, Vietnamese have been deported since 1973.

Secondly, to order all Kampucheans, male or female, to work twice or ten times harder than the Vietnamese people so that Kampuchea could become more powerful than Vietnam.

Thirdly, to "accept" a large-scale armed conflict with Vietnam...

Eight million Kampucheans should try to kill 60 million Vietnamese. With the most serious attitude, the Khmer Rouge leaders have ordered that each Kampuchean must kill 30 Vietnamese'.

One would question oneself: Pol Pot was to retain just two million Kampucheans after the internal purge and then used that force to kill 60 million Vietnamese. Where he was to lead the Kampuchean people to?

On January 5th 1976, the Pol Pot regime promulgated a new constitution that banned all religions. On April 2nd 1976, he deposed King Sihanouk from his throne and kept the King under house arrest in the Royal Palace. On April 7th 1976, Pol Pot announced the dissolution of the Royal Government.

Using Pol Pot's PCSC decisions as top

orders and the new constitution to formalise the disposition of King Sihanouk with the aim to demolish the symbol of national patriotism, friendship with neighbours and Kampuchea's policy of peace, non-alignment and neutrality, Pol Pot started the most gruesome genocide by the explosion of the Kampuchean National Bank and the invasion of Vietnam, which were made his best measures to ignite national extremism and enmity between the two peoples.

The good is so noble but the good could never fully understand the bad as usually seen in life. Loyalty could never fathom treason. Betrayers are always wicked. Sincerity could never foresee wickedness. The people of Vietnam, the people of Cambodia as well as the most respected King Sihanouk himself could never foresee the true Pol Pot.

Then, quite a few Cambodians, civilians, students or commanders who followed the call by King Sihanouk to join the anti-American resistance after Lon Non's coup of March 18th 1970, recalled with shock and pain how they suffered from the Pol Pot's genocide regime and managed to escape to Vietnam. We were much shocked either by their story, but could not as yet understand the truth and how such an unimaginable and strange regime could come to existence?

The Cambodian society from a peaceful oasis of the 1960s had been turned into a massive labour camp filled with collective graves. No cities, no schools, no marketplace, no money, no dancing, no church service, no chanting of the Buddha's sutras, no interaction with the outside world, no conversation, no cheering, no tears, no

thinking; nothing but a deep silence and obedience to Pol Pot's orders in the constant fear of one's turn to the execution ground.

The three years, eight months and twenty days under the reign of Pol Pot's regime brought the number of people killed to 2,700,000 including 200 writers and journalists, 600 doctors and pharmacists, 18,000 teachers, over 10,000 students and 1,000 artists as counted by the Cambodian people and according to the statistics of the United National Front for the Salvation of the Kampuchea Fatherland (UNFSKF). Among the 1,000 overseas Cambodian intellectuals who returned to Cambodia, only 85 could survive. Some 6,000 schools, more than 700 hospitals and healthcare units, nearly 2,000 Buddhist temples, over 100 Christian churches and Islamic temples were destroyed or turned into ware-houses and prisons.

Pol Pot attacked Vietnam in an attempt to push for his internal purge, to eliminate all patriots who cherished peace, neutrality, non-alignment, Buddhism and Buddhist virtues, which went against Pol Pot's cruel, inhumane and dictatorial nature. Further, his attacks on Vietnam pursued a long-term strategic goal. Together with his internal purge and purification of the people, the attacks were explained by Pol Pot himself at his Party's PCSC Conference of February 1st 1978: 'The war between us and Vietnam is a long-term one of a corrosive character. If we do not attack first we, would never win...If only we could kill some dozens a day, some thousands a month and some tens of thousand a year, we could go on for 10, 15 or 20 years. One Kampuchean should kill 30 Vietnamese; we could sacrifice two

million Kampucheans to kill 60 million Vietnamese... We have to bring war to their land'.

French daily *Le Monde* reported on January 8th 1978 Pol Pot as saying on Phnom Penh Radio that 'In my life, I hope to liberate Sài Gòn'. Hence his offensive campaign on Vietnamese villages along the border following the May 1975 attacks on the islands of Phú Quốc and Thổ Chu. On December 27th 1975, Pol Pot's army attacked the Sôp village in Gia Lai-Kon Tum province, captured and killed 107 civilians. On February 25th 1976, they occupied the Border Guard Stations No. 7 and 8 at Bu-prang. In all, they attacked 280 points along the Vietnamese border in 1976.

On April 11th 1977 following the anti-Pol Pot insurgency, Hu Nim - then Minister for Information and Propaganda was arrested, detained in Tuôn Sleng Prison and was later executed on July 10th 1977.

On April 30th 1977, the day Vietnam celebrated the 2nd anniversary of the complete liberation of South Vietnam, Pol Pot opened a total attack throughout the border with Vietnam. In An Giang province alone, they attacked 13 of the 15 villages and 13 border guard stations, killing 758 people and destroying more than 100 houses. As time went by, he climbed up with new steps. Pol Pot stated: 'Vietnam is in difficulty, having no strategic force to fight back against us while we still have the capability to strike further into their territory. Along with destroying the external enemy, we have also eliminated the reactionary leadership in the whole country like those in the Eastern, Northeastern, West regions of Phnom Penh, Zone 105, Kratie,

Zone 25 and Southwestern Military Zone. From January 1978 up to now, if Vietnam attacks us once, we would counter-attack ten times. Our internal affairs are now complicated just by a tenth of the previous complex situation.' (excerpt from PCSC magazine *The Revolutionary Flag*, May-June 1978). By December 21st 1978, Pol Pot had mobilised 10 divisions to attack the entire border with Vietnam with a view to occupying the latter's town of Tây Ninh. From May 1975 to December 23rd 1978, Pol Pot's army killed more than 5,000 Vietnamese civilians, wounded another 5,000 and captured more than 20,000 others. Thousands of schools, hospitals, healthcare units, temples and churches were destroyed or burned down. Thousands of cattle were killed or taken away. Thousands of hectares of crops and rubber farms on the Northwestern border region were destroyed and deserted. Half a million of people living along the border had to abandon their houses and land, running for life towards the East, sharing whatever place which might be found amid the unfilled B52 bomb craters.

Pol Pot's brutal oppression and grips had ignited waves of insurgency against his very genocidal regime across Cambodia, from the Northeast to the Southwest. They culminated in those in the Eastern, Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng military zones. Tens of thousands of Cambodians took refuge in Vietnam. In June 1977, Hun Sen came to recognise the reactionary nature of Pol Pot and gathered other Cambodian patriots to set up the first patriotic armed groups. Along with other leaders like Heng Somrin, Chea Sim, Bu

Thoong, Sai Phuthong, etc., he re-built the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea (PRPK). On December 2nd 1978, the UNFSKF with the PRPK as the core came to life and made it known to the people of Snoul district, Kratie province. The Front later requested Vietnam to lend a hand with saving tens of thousands of Cambodian refugees and the whole Cambodian people as well.

Vietnam faced a hard choice. The only answer by a sovereign country of conscience and faith was none but the elimination of Pol Pot's genocidal regime - the cause and source of all the horrors the Cambodian people were going through and the barbarous border war with Vietnam. As long as that regime existed, the Cambodian people would be trapped in the genocide and the Vietnamese people would fail to have peace and stability for national reconstruction.

Vietnam in fact had more than once practised self-restraint in requesting Pol Pot's PCSC to sit down at the negotiation table to seek a peaceful resolution for the border disputes. Unfortunately, all these efforts went in vain as Pol Pot kept on rejecting. At last, Vietnam had to act as everyone who loves justice would. In response to the urgent call by the Cambodian people and the UNFSKF and to protect its own motherland, the Vietnamese army opened the strategic offensive campaign on December 23rd 1978, smashing out Pol Pot's overall attack to occupy Tây Ninh and later moved on to join the newly-formed UNFSKF forces to break Pol Pot's military forces and genocidal regime. On January 7th 1979, the capital of

Phnom Penh was liberated and 25 days later, on January 17th 1979, all cities and towns of Cambodia were freed from genocide. The offensive campaign which was conducted with such a speed on such a large area covering more than 500 kilometres both in depth and in width came as a result of not just the bravery and sound command of the Vietnamese army but more importantly, thanks to the Cambodian people's staunch support, without which the campaign would not have been succeeded so fast, sweeping away Pol Pot's 21 strong divisions.

Everywhere Vietnamese voluntary soldiers were received with great joy by the newly liberated Cambodian people. Elders in Battambang still recall that 'We follow Buddhism and pray for Buddha's salvation day and night to no avail. We think on this earth only Vietnam could save us and really you have come'. Vietnamese voluntary soldiers got stunned at the Cambodian people's extreme sufferings, at the Pol Pot regime's disgusting brutality that went out of even the richest imagination.

Rescuing the people was as important and urgent as breaking down the enemy. Many were rescued just before going to be executed by the Pol Pots. They were at times so weak that the rescue teams had to carry them back. Throughout the newly-liberated Cambodia, Vietnamese voluntary cadres and soldiers worked hand in hand with their Cambodian friends to repatriate tens of thousands or even millions of starving civilians back to their longing homes from where they were forced out by the Pol Pot clique. Everywhere Vietnamese volunteers had to assist the Cambodian people in their strive for reconstruction and production to

combat the threat of starvation and further sufferings. They helped build new houses, schools, hospitals and even temples. With full understanding of Cambodians' difficulties at the start of a new life, Vietnamese volunteers also brought from their native lands the precious seeds and plants necessary for each household in Cambodia. Despite their deep hatred for the Pol Pot clique who killed so many of their beloved at home, Vietnamese soldiers never took revenge on the POWs. Instead the latter were treated in a humane way: the injured were cured and repatriated back to their homes while the healthy were re-educated and sent back to the woods to persuade those in hiding to give up arms. Some were even re-armed. Initially this caused no small doubt and surprise among Cambodians who felt great hatred for the Pol Pot regime. Cambodians started to call Vietnamese soldiers as "Buddha's soldiers" who helped the brotherly Cambodian people with the great national renaissance. This miraculous renaissance could only be correctly comprehended if put against the backdrop of all the horrors and destructions to the society, environment and to each and every person in Cambodia under the Pol Pot regime.

The great demand of the war against the US, a giant imperialist force that enjoyed much more material strength and advanced military equipment than Vietnam did, made Vietnam pursue its strategy of all-people's fight against the enemy and maintain a million-strong permanent army. After 30 years of continuous war, the people of Vietnam wished nothing but a life in peace to put all efforts and strength in the

reconstruction of the country and heal the wounds of the war. In fact Vietnam had started its plan of force reduction and direct the army toward production in peace time. However, facing the attacks by the Pol Pot regime and when thousands of their fellow-countrymen were killed by it, the Vietnamese Army had to undertake a new struggle to safeguard the Fatherland and compatriots.

Marching into Phnom Penh, Koh Kong and Preah Vihear, Vietnamese volunteers had the only wish to return home. The Vietnamese nation, guided by its ancestors' teachings, always seeks to make peace and stop any war. Against their wish, the defeated Pol Pot army retreated to the Cambodian western and south-western border as well as in some remote areas to conduct counter-attacks and terrorist acts against the people and continued to kill civilians. Those activities increased both in scale and severity after time. The threat of a return to the genocidal regime still hung above the Cambodian people, causing no small worries and fears. Cambodia then held their first parliamentary election and established a new People's Republic of Cambodia. It was clear then that the Cambodian people with their still weak and young forces, could not protect themselves from Pol Pot's new counter-attacks. In such circumstances, the Government of the People's Republic of Cambodia officially requested Vietnamese volunteers not to withdraw immediately to avoid the return to tragedy of the Cambodian people. A much more horrific genocide would break out and a new border war with Vietnam by Pol Pot would excite national enmity for long in the

wake of such a withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces: "To help friends is to help yourself". Armed with true patriotism and a crystal clear internationalism, Vietnamese volunteers could not ignore the worries and fears of their Cambodian friends and allow the return of Pol Pot. Despite all the hardships, they stayed in Cambodia and made annual withdrawal until the complete withdrawal in 1989. The *Canberra Times* on March 19th 1989 noted: No one could deny the fact that Vietnam's move into Cambodia has brought about clear results. This action has been welcomed by Cambodians everywhere as liberation for them. And it is clear to everyone that so far the Khmer Rouge has not been able to return because of the Vietnamese presence... It is also clear that it has taken the people of Cambodia, the PRPK and the Cambodian State 10 more years to do away with the Pol Pot regime.

Nowadays Cambodia is in peace. It is also in the process of reconstruction and development. The Kingdom of Cambodia is again in place under the reign of King

Norodom Sihanouk within a peaceful and stable Southeast Asia, an area of dynamic and sustainable development. The ten ASEAN countries are united within a common association. The countries of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia as well as the whole Indochina peninsula are enjoying peace and friendship. The rigorous development of the Cửu Long rice granary, of the industrial crop regions of East Nam Bộ and Tây Nguyên (the Central Highlands), the ever succeeding renovation of the whole country today are attributed to an extremely important factor: the elimination of the Pol Pot regime. Reality is the test for the truth. Today that reality confirms that the elimination of the Pol Pot regime, the protection of the country's sovereignty, the assistance to the Cambodian people in their national liberation are rightful actions. It is the just and noble international task of the Vietnamese people in the 20th century to help the Cambodian people in their strive for freedom from genocide and for national renaissance ■

CHRONOLOGY OF 2001 (January)

4th January: The high-ranking delegation of the Italian Communist Party led by Secretary General (Sec. Gen.) O. Diliberto pays a visit to Vietnam. The delegation is received by Sec. Gen. Lê Khả Phiêu and meets with Mr. Phạm Thế Duyệt, Standing member of the Party Politburo.

6th – 16th January: The 11th Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (VIII Tenure) takes place in Hanoi. The Plenum discusses, considers the relevant comments and votes on some important issues to complete the Draft Political Report, Socio-economic Development Strategy 2001-2010, Direction and Task of the 5-year Plan 2001-2005, and the Report on amendments and supplements to the Party's Statutes. It also discusses the personnel for the Central Committee of the CPV to be decided by the coming 9th Congress of the CPV.

7th – 10th January: Prime Minister of the Republic of India V.B. Vajpayee pays an official visit to Vietnam. He pays a call to Sec. Gen. Lê Khả Phiêu, State President Trần Đức Lương,

holds talk with Prime-minister Phan Văn Khải, meets with General Võ Nguyên Giáp, Foreign Minister Nguyễn Dy Niên, Defence Minister Phạm Văn Trà, and businessmen of the two countries. The two sides sign the Protocol on extension of the cultural cooperation program 2001-2003, Agreement on cooperation in using nuclear power for peace purposes, and Agreement on Tourism.

9th January: The delegation of the Committee for External Affairs under the Second Chamber of the Kingdom of the Netherlands led by Ms M. de Boer, Chairperson of the Committee, pays a visit to Vietnam. The delegation is received by National Assembly Chairman Nông Đức Mạnh and NA Deputy Chairman Mai Thúc Lân.

16th January: The delegation of the US House of Representatives led by the Leader of the Democratic Party in the House of Representatives pays a visit to Vietnam. The delegation is received by NA Chairman Nông Đức Mạnh and Standing Deputy Prime-minister Nguyễn Tấn Dũng.

In tại Nhà xuất bản Thế Giới.

Giấy chấp nhận đăng ký kế hoạch xuất bản số 2-86/XB-QLXB, cấp ngày 16/1/2001.

In xong và nộp lưu chiểu tháng 2-2001.

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