

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF
THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM

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DECLARATION

OF

THE FOREIGN OFFICE

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NOTE

Blood is being shed in South Vietnam. The situation is aggravating every hour, threatening the security of the Far-East.

False propaganda and insinuating reports have disfigured the world opinion on the Vietnamese question. We wish to expose in the following note, the development of the Vietnamese situation since the establishment of the French domination up to the present day.

*With the compliments
of the*

**VIETNAM NEWS SERVICE
543, SILOM ROAD, BANGKOK, SIAM**

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Vietnam Service
245 CHOC BANG TOWER, HANOI
VIETNAM SERVICE

NOTE

By the Treaties of March 15th 1874 and June 6th 1884, France established her domination over Vietnam. The Vietnamese Empire was dislocated and split up into three parts: the North, called Tonking, the Center, called Annam, and the South called Cochinchina. Cochinchina became a colony, Annam a protectorate and Tonkin nominally a protectorate, but was gradually transformed into a de facto colony. To ruin our unity and national consciousness, these three districts were amalgamated, together with Cambodia and Laos into the Indochinese Federation. Though the political statuses were different in the five parts, the same oppressive policy was uniformly carried out with thoroughness and continuity. The result of this policy was terrific and beyond human belief: suppression of political rights; promotion and development of illiteracy; organized bribery; ruthless repression of nationalist movements. This terrorizing policy, carried out for more than 80 years climaxed

in the repressive measures taken against the Vietminh nationalists during World War II. That such a barbarous policy, instead of dying out with the lapse of years, was to grow more and more ruthless every day, was the undeniable evidence that the Vietnamese people never accepted the French Rule. On the contrary, the history of Vietnam during these 80 years was the story of grim, bitter day-to-day fight and sacrifice, extending all over the country, involving all classes of the people.

Sept. 1940-March 1945. — The collapse of French military forces at Langson, and the bankruptcy of French diplomacy in 1941 brought about the establishment of Japanese Domination over Indochina. Ensued a double exploitation of the country. To satisfy the tremendous demands of Japanese militarists and civilians, France resorted to the monstrous rice-destroying policy and the sabotage of indochinese economic machinery. Towards the end of 1944 there was no rice available in North-Vietnam. Within the early months of 1945, 2,000,000 Vietnamese died of starvation.

Meanwhile the Vietminh League patiently built up a national resistance front. Starting from the War zone in Higher Tonking, with the Liberation Army, they succeeded in extending their organization all over Vietnam. Ruthless repression both from the Japanese and from French authorities could not subdue

the nationalist movement whose importance and strength increased every day.

March 9th 1945. — The Japanese, weary of Vietminh resistance and French inefficiency, resolved to have the governing machine handed over to them. After a sham fight lasting but a couple of hours, the French troops surrendered unconditionally. A puppet government was set up. Anti-Vietminh repression was intensified. But anti-Japanese feelings also.

August 19th 1945. — The Vietminh resistance movement and guerilla warfare increased in intensity, efficacy and extent. It culminated in the taking over of the government on August 19th at Hanoi. Emperor Bao-Dai abdicated voluntarily. The Vietnam Democratic Republic was established. The Provisional Government was set up under the presidency of HO-CHI-MINH. Enthusiastic support came from all corners of the land. Peace and order were restored. All the essential functions of an independent state were established which from the start operated smoothly.

By the end of August 1945, the Japanese unconditionally surrendered to the Allies. China and Britain were to send troops to occupy Indochina temporarily until the disarmament of the Japanese is achieved. Big spontaneous demonstrations, and enthusiastic expressions of the free press, showed that the Vietnamese, backing up their Government, were

ready to welcome the Allies Nations into Indochina. The Chinese forces to the North of 16th parallel and British forces to the South moved in without the slightest incident.

But in the meanwhile, radiobroadcast from French General De Gaulle, M. Bidault, General Leclerc and Amiral d'Argenlieu, to quote only a few, as well as the provocative attitude of French residents in the main Indochinese towns evinced the dark aims of France, whose representatives openly menaced Indochina of a second aggression. On September 23rd, in the morning, the threats became facts and the French, with the complicity or at least with the connivance of the British troops, launched a night attack in the streets of Saigon against the Vietnamese civilian population. The assault took place at 3 a. m. whereas a few days before the British command had proclaimed martial law and forbidden the carriage of any kind of weapons, including wooden sticks, from 9.30 p. m. to 5.30 a. m. Under this treacherous assault the Vietnamese police gave way in Saigon. But nationalists outside Saigon rapidly organized a stubborn resistance. Bitter and murderous street fighting is going on, together with a non-collaboration movement the result of which, both for Indochinese as well as world economy, are incalculable.

CONCLUSION

In the light of the preceding statements, the following facts are established :

- 1° France was militarily incapable of defending her colonial Empire, contrarily to the treaties signed with the protected countries.
- 2° From 1940-1945, France, breaking all her promises, yielded to Japanese pressure and cooperated with the axis-powers, while the Vietnamese resisted and stuck to the Allies.
- 3° France carried out an inhuman and destructive food policy in Vietnam, whereas it had been stated in every quarter that after the war the food situation will be very serious in the whole world.
- 4° Vietnam has wrested her independence from the Japanese, and from August 19th has been a de facto independent republic with all the organs of a legitimate government supported by the whole nation.
- 5° French troops, excited by French propaganda and smoke-screened by British occupation forces violated Vietnamese national rights, terri-

torial integrity, as well as the principles laid down in the Atlantic Charter and in the agreements reached in subsequent peace conferences.

6° The Vietnamese people is determined to fight to the last man for its independence and for the cause of international Justice and equality of status, against French aggressors.

In conclusion, the Provisional Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, appealing to the United Nations, has decided :

1° To lodge a most emphatic protest against the British Disarmament Mission in South Indochina for having connived at and favoured a French aggression on the Vietnamese people, aggression contrary to the principles laid down in the Atlantic Charter, in the Teheran, San-Francisco and Postdam conferences.

2° To lodge a most emphatic protest against the use of the British, Japanese and Gurkha indian troops to help the French aggressors under pretence of trying to reestablish order, whereas the responsibility for the disturbance of order can only be imputed to French troops under French Colonels Cedille and Rivière.

3° To apply to the United Nations for an urgent settling of the Indochinese situation on the basis of full respect for the independence and freedom of the Vietnamese people.

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