

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
FOREIGN OFFICE



FOREIGN POLICY
OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
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Considering the international and national situations as stated in the following survey, the Provisional Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam has decided to carry out the foreign policy expressed in the third part of this declaration, which it deems most proper to lead our country to complete and lasting independence.

I — INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

The world war has officially come to an end. In Europe, as well as in the Far-East, the Democracies have won a complete victory. Aggressive totalitarianism, militarism and fascism have been defeated and destroyed.

To consolidate the victory of Justice and Freedom, and to spare Humanity the plague of a new war, the Allied Powers had uphold and proclaimed humanitarian principles in the Atlantic, Teheran, San Francisco, Postdam conferences..... adopting liberty and equality of status as fundamental principles, and solemnly

recognising the right of peoples to decide themselves of their own fate. The third point of the Atlantic Charter stipulated that the United Nations should respect the right of all peoples to chose the form of Government under which they will live, and that they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.

These declarations have not been mere hollow words but have already been carried out, opening a new era for the peoples of East-Asia. Korea has been liberated and is materialising its independence. The Philippine Islands and India are rapidly progressing towards self-government. What then about Viet-Nam?

II — NATIONAL SITUATION

The Vietnamese people, which has long been fully aware of this law of universal progress, has done everything in its power these 80 years to oppose every aggression and oppression, in order to have free access to the right path which is at present clearly defined by the democratic nations.

a/ Period of French domination. During this period extending over 80 years, the Vietnamese people have never accepted the French rule. By repeated uprisings they have attempted to overthrow the French yoke.

b/ 1940-1945. After the French had surrendered to the Japanese and handed Indochina over to Japan, the nationalist movement grew stronger everyday, and from the war zone, it spread over the whole nation, involving everyone into the fight for independence and liberty.

c/ August 19th 1945. On the 19th of August, 1945, the former government was overthrown and a democratic Republic established. On Sept. the 2nd the Provisional Government, elected by national Congress, officially proclaimed the independence of Viet-Nam, abolished all the treaties France had concluded with the Emperors of the Nguyen Dynasty, and decreed the mobilisation of the forces of the nation to oppose foreign aggression, for the French colonists have not given up the prospect of invading this land once more. On Sept. 23rd French prisoners and civilians, supported by British troops, attacked Saigon. But the forces of the nation, which had been organised in anticipation of a French invasion, and which have found in the present incident an opportunity to test their strength, will soon put a stop to French agitation.

III — FOREIGN POLICY OF VIETNAM REPUBLIC

Viet-Nam is now in a phase of fierce struggle. The main object of our foreign policy is

to insure the victory of the nation by peaceable or forcible means, according to the attitude evinced by the foreign powers, but always in accordance with the Atlantic Charter.

a/ Therefore, towards the Allies, Vietnam will cultivate friendship and promote co-operation based upon liberty and equality, in order to build up a lasting world peace. As regards China, a country united to us by many traditional links, important in every respect, geographical, historical, cultural, and economical, Viet-Nam wishes to bring these links even closer and stronger, so as to enable the two peoples to help each other on their way to progress.

b/ But as far as France is concerned, Viet-Nam is at present under obligation of following a different policy. First of all, such French residents as willingly submit themselves to law and order, and respect the independence of our country, will have their lives and properties protected according to international law. But as regards De Gaulle's Government which, sticking to its colonial policy, has expressly menaced our security, we declare our determination to oppose it, if it refuses to acknowledge the full independence of Viet-Nam.

c/ As regards the lesser nations, the Government of Vietnam Republic is prepared to engage friendly relations and co-operate with them on the principles of equality of status, in order to help mutually in the building up and maintenance of national independence.

d/ Our desire to cultivate friendship with Cambodia and Laos on the basis of self-determination of peoples is the more earnest as, in the past, in the present juncture and in the future, there have been, are, and will be common features in the respective fates of the three nations. Having been under French domination, we must make common efforts to overthrow the French yoke and avoid taking any separate step which might be prejudicial to the independence of the others. Mutual help is necessary to the recovery and maintenance of independence. Furthermore as Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam will have many economic bounds, the three nations will assist one another to reconstruct their respective countries and advance, side by side, on the path of progress.

As the Government of Viet-Nam Republic does not make any difference between races and classes it will not make any difference between religions. Liberty of Faith will be fully respected. Therefore, regarding the catholic as well as the other religions, the Government will show affection and respect, based on the principle of freedom of faith.



