



HANOI
FOREIGN LANGUAGES PUBLISHING HOUSE
1958

THE PEACE MOVEMENT IN VIETNAM

people were taken to the "Tribunal" and
and the "Tribunal" was held in the
erected house of the "Tribunal" and
the original who carried out the
hundreds of all the soldiers and
night earned their heaven and
and places to send to the "Tribunal" and
who suffered hardships in the
over, some to protect the "Tribunal" and
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again, then the "Tribunal" and
as to the "Tribunal" and
cases of impartial and
preservation of peace

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Even while the Resistance war still raged, the people joined directly in the world peace movement, and warmly upheld its initiatives. The Vietnam Peace Committee was organized on 1950, many peace conferences were organized on a national scale, and the Vietnamese in London and other countries had numerous peace delegations to the People's Peace Congress, August 16th, 1958.

SOME FEATURES OF THE PEACE MOVEMENT IN VIETNAM DURING THE RESISTANCE WAR

During the Resistance war, the Vietnamese people saw their heroic fight against French and American imperialist aggression as an active and essential means of safeguarding world peace. All the armymen who sacrificed life and blood on the battlefields; all the volunteer porters who day and night, carried their heavy loads over mountains and plains to supply the front; all the civilians who suffered hardships of all kinds and strained every nerve to produce for the front and fulfil the tasks of the rear; all of them, irrespective of sex or age, knew that in their different ways they were, as President Ho Chi Minh put it, 'striking at the roots of imperialist war and contributing to the preservation of peace'.

Even while the Resistance war still raged, our people joined directly in the world peace movement, and warmly upheld all its initiatives. The Vietnam Peace Committee was founded in mid-1950; many peace conferences were organized on a national scale in the war years. Despite difficulties in transport and communication, Vietnamese delegates were present at all international peace conferences and carried back their message to the Vietnamese people, even in the enemy-held regions. All these resolutions were courageously implemented by our fellow-citizens! Five million signatures were collected in Vietnam to the 1950 Stockholm Appeal against atomic bombs. A million signatures to the 1950 Berlin Appeal for a Five Powers Peace Pact were collected in enemy-held areas among guerrilla fighters and civilians who, arms in hands, were defending their villages and hamlets against enemy mopping-up operations. Even in the free zones, signatures were collected at enormous risk, often enough during brief intervals between two air raids.

The various activities of the peace movement in Vietnam during the patriotic war helped the noble fight of the Vietnamese people, and at the same time won unanimous approval and strong support from peace-loving peoples the world over.

From its inception, the world peace movement never failed at its various meetings to condemn the aggressive war waged by the imperialists against

the Vietnamese people, to demand an end to this war and universal recognition of the right to independence of the peoples of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. We take this opportunity of re-affirming our deep feeling and profound gratitude toward the peace-loving peoples of the world for their noble international solidarity.

We may say without exaggeration that the peace movement in Vietnam and the world peace movement successfully combined their efforts in the common fight against the French and American imperialist aggressors, and effectively contributed to bringing the Vietnamese people's resistance to a glorious end — to the historic victory at Dien Bien Phu, and the successful Geneva Conference.

II. THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS

The Geneva Agreements signed on July 20, 1954 marked a turning-point in the long struggle of the Vietnamese people for independence and peace.

These agreements recognize the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. They not only re-established peace in Indochina, but provided for prevention of the recurrence of war, and for negotiations and general elections with a view to reunifying Vietnam.

Having failed in their attempts to sabotage the Geneva Conference, the American imperialists have since made all-out efforts to sabotage the implementation of the Geneva Agreements, even to annul them.

About a month after the conclusion of the Geneva Agreements, they set up the South-East Asia treaty organisation and announced the inclusion of South Vietnam in the 'protection zone' of that bloc. They interfered even more brazenly in South Vietnam, ousting the French colonialists and creating the Ngo Dinh Diem Administration as their tool for sabotaging the peace and reunification of Vietnam, and for turning South Vietnam into an American colony and military base.

In complete contravention of the Geneva Agreements, the U.S.-Ngo Dinh Diem clique has set up a separate State in South Vietnam, trampled upon democratic liberties, suppressed the peace movement of the twin cities of Saigon-Cholon, crushed the religious sects, whipped up campaigns of denunciation of communists, and taken widespread reprisals against former partisans of the resistance and all patriotic and peace-loving people in South Vietnam. So-called 'U.S. economic aid' has drained South Vietnam of its rich resources and condemned the people to a hard life. In violation of the military clauses of the Geneva Agreements, the U.S. imperialists are expanding the South Vietnam army, placing training and all military affairs

under American officers' command; they are enlarging their military bases and building new ones, bringing more and more U.S. military personnel, arms, munitions and war materials into South Vietnam. Recently, the Ngo Dinh Diem Administration illegally claimed the right to replace by American arms those taken out by the French troops during their withdrawal from South Vietnam. It is a matter of regret that the International Commission which has effectively contributed to the consolidation of peace in Vietnam, has now decided to give satisfaction to this unlawful demand in contradiction to the fundamental principles of the Geneva Agreements.

The plot of the U.S. — Diem clique against peace in Indochina and South-East Asia is clearly demonstrated by their repeated cries about 'filling in the Ben Hai river' and 'marching Northwards', by their provocations and attacks on the Cambodian borders, their feverish efforts to turn South Vietnam into a fully-fledged member of SEATO.

Their aim to perpetuate the division of Vietnam is revealed by Ngo Dinh Diem's absurd statement that he is not bound by the Geneva Agreements, by his repeated refusals to discuss with the Government of the Vietnam Democratic Republic the questions of general elections, national reunification, bilateral reduction of armed forces, and trade exchanges.

The designs of the U.S.-Dien clique and their activities in South Vietnam, seriously threaten peace. The U. S. policy of intervention in South Vietnam is the main obstacle to the consolidation of peace and the reunification of our country.

That is one outstanding feature of the developments in our country over the last four years.

Another feature of the utmost importance is that North Vietnam has embarked on the road to socialism. Completely liberated from imperialist domination and feudal exploitation, North Vietnam has successfully restored its economy and set itself the task of advancing gradually towards socialism by well-planned economic and cultural development.

Socialist construction in North Vietnam aims at building an equitable society, a strong and prosperous nation. It cannot in any way create any obstacle to our people's struggle for the consolidation of peace and national reunification, quite the opposite. It will have a good influence on the movement for national unity among our fellow-citizens in South Vietnam.

Socialist construction will make North Vietnam progressively stronger; it will increase the material and moral resources of our people, increase the strength of the socialist camp and of the peace forces of the world. It will create favourable conditions for carrying our struggle for unity to a victorious

end, freeing the Southern part of our country of American domination, thus contributing to the preservation of peace in South-East Asia and the world.

III. THE PEACE MOVEMENT IN VIETNAM SINCE THE RESTORATION OF PEACE

Our people are all the more attached to peace because they have suffered the hardship and sorrow of fifteen years of war. The peace movement in Vietnam is a national movement. We defend peace in many ways: by upholding all initiatives of the world peace movement, supporting the national liberation movement, strengthening our bonds of friendship with all peoples, and also by speeding up our construction in all fields, and fighting for national reunification.

Since the restoration of peace we have been taking an even more active part in the movement of the peoples of the world for peace and national independence.

In 1955, in response to the Vienna Appeal, our people launched an active campaign for the collection of signatures demanding a ban on atomic weapons. In North Vietnam alone, we collected over 6,500,000 signatures. The campaigns for disarmament and a ban on nuclear weapons continued in the last few years with the fruitful cooperation of all political

parties, mass organisations, and of all strata of the population. The Vietnamese Women's Union and the Vietnamese Mothers' Union made important contributions to these campaigns.

The Vietnamese people have warmly welcomed and fully supported all peace initiatives taken by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. We attached particular importance to the unilateral suspension of nuclear tests by the Soviet Union, and Joint Sino-Soviet Statement of August 3, 1958.

Representatives of the Vietnamese people have participated in various peace conferences and other international conferences working for peace and national independence.

The Vietnamese people, who have waged a relentless struggle against colonialism and for their national liberation, are now fighting against the American imperialists for national reunification, and deeply sympathize with the struggle of all peoples for independence, unity and territorial integrity. We support the Korean and German peoples' struggles for national reunification; we support the liberation of Taiwan by the Chinese people, the restitution of Goa to India, of West Irian to Indonesia, and the suppression of the rebels by the Indonesian Government and people. Our deepest sympathy goes to our Algerian brothers and many campaigns of support for them have been successfully launched. In one campaign, which started on March 30, 1958,

on the occasion of the Algerian Solidarity Day observed throughout Asia and Africa, the Vietnamese people organized 1,446 meetings with the participation of over 440,000 people and collected more than 150 million *dongs* (about 15 million French francs) for the Algerian Solidarity Funds. Our people have strenuously condemned the imperialist intervention and aggression against Egypt, Syria, Indonesia, Lebanon and Jordan. We organized meetings attended by tens of thousands of people to voice our support for the Egyptian people. Meetings and demonstrations protesting against American and British aggression and supporting the Middle-East peoples were attended by hundreds of thousands of people.

Our peaceful environment has allowed us to strengthen our ties of friendship with all peoples. We have invited many foreign delegations to visit our country, and have sent our own delegations on friendly visits to other countries. The visits paid by President Ho Chi Minh and governmental and parliamentary delegations of the Vietnam Democratic Republic to the socialist countries, India and Burma have further consolidated the friendship between our people and the peoples of these countries. Exchanges of letters and publications with foreign countries have notably increased. Each year the cultural anniversaries proposed by the World Peace Council are celebrated with the active participation of the Vietnam Writers and Artists' Union, Hanoi University and various colleges.

Our people fully endorse the five principles of peaceful coexistence and actively support the establishment of diplomatic, cultural and economic relations between the Vietnam Democratic Republic and all countries.

Another aspect of our people's struggle in defence of peace is socialist construction in North Vietnam. Three years after the restoration of peace, we have in the main achieved land reform, restored the economy and made initial progress in cultural development. Under the clear-sighted leadership of the Vietnam Lao Dong Party, the Government of the Vietnam Democratic Republic and President Ho Chi Minh, with the unselfish and generous aid of the Soviet Union, China and other socialist countries, our people have successfully healed the wounds of war and gradually raised their living standards, in spite of serious difficulties. This incontrovertibly proves the superiority of our political regime.

On the basis of these achievements we this year enter the period of planned construction with a new spirit — that of socialist emulation — full of love for our Fatherland and our regime.

While competing with each other in socialist construction in North Vietnam, our people all over the country have been actively striving for the correct implementation of the Geneva Agreements, for the strengthening of peace and the achievement of national reunification. The Government and people of the Vietnam Democratic Republic consider

the conclusion of the Geneva Agreements as a great victory for the Vietnamese revolution and world peace. That is why they have been correctly and strictly implementing all the clauses of these Agreements. Despite many difficulties, the regroupment and transfer of our armed forces were successfully carried out within the time-limit prescribed. All reports by the International Commission of Supervision and Control recognize that North Vietnam has brought in no new arms, war materials or military personnel; that it has allowed no foreign power to set up military bases on its soil; that it adheres to the policy of no military bloc and has strictly observed all regulations concerning the demilitarized zone. Only 21.2 per cent of its 1957 budget, and 20.2 per cent of its 1958 budget, went on defence spending. The Government of the Vietnam Democratic Republic reduced its armed forces by 80,000 men in 1958, it is examining the possibilities of further reductions and has turned a part of its armed forces into production units. It has time and again proposed to the South Vietnam authorities to hold a consultative conference to discuss general elections, national reunification and normalization of relations between the two zones. In its note of March 7, 1958, it once again proposed an early meeting between the competent authorities of the two zones to discuss the bilateral reduction of armed forces and to explore ways and means to bring about commercial exchanges. This has been followed by further proposals for cultural exchanges,

exchanges of letters and telegrams, exchanges of delegations, and free circulation between the two zones.

The whole Vietnamese people from North to South warmly approve and strongly support the policy followed by the Government of the Vietnam Democratic Republic aimed at consolidating peace and achieving unity on the basis of the Geneva Agreements. The programme of the Vietnam Fatherland Front has rallied all the Vietnamese people in the struggle for a peaceful, reunified, independent, democratic and prosperous Vietnam. They gave an enthusiastic response to the Appeal of July 20, 1958 by the Fatherland Front, and resolutely fight against the U.S. interventionists, for the socialist construction of North Vietnam and for national reunification.

During the last four years, millions of Vietnamese people in the North, the South and abroad took a hand in the courageous and stubborn struggle against U.S. intervention in South Vietnam, urging respect of the Geneva Agreements by the U.S. and the Ngo Dinh Diem Administration. Our citizens in the South have to wage a daily fight against the U.S. — Diem clique. After the restoration of peace in 1954, a peace movement began in the twin cities of Saigon-Cholon, and grew rapidly in an active struggle for peace and unity, for the correct implementation of the Geneva Agreements. This movement was warmly supported by our brothers and

sisters in the South. When the U.S. — Diem clique struck down the movement and arrested and jailed its partisans, a wave of angry protest swept the country. The struggle of the whole Vietnamese people compelled the U.S. — Diem clique to release most of the imprisoned patriots, but some are still in custody in South Central Vietnam. The Saigon-Cholon peace movement was followed by other movements successively launched by the workers, peasants, intellectuals and students; by other strata of the working people and by people forcibly evacuated from the North to the South; by religious circles, and even by soldiers and officers of the South Vietnam Army. These movements have demonstrated the heroic fighting spirit of our fellow-citizens in the South who are united in the common fight against political oppression and terror, against exploitation and poverty, against U.S. 'economic aid', forcible conscription and war preparations, for better living conditions and fundamental human rights, for the realization of the Fatherland Front Programme and the implementation of the proposals put forth by the Vietnam Democratic Republic concerning the holding of the Consultative Conference and general election. Although they are barbarously repressed by the South Vietnam Administration, our fellow-citizens are still waging a resolute fight against the U.S. — Diem clique, upholding the cause of peace and national unity to the end.

In our hard struggle for the correct implementation of the Geneva Agreements, for the consolidation

of peace and for national reunification, we enjoy the approval and support of all peace-loving people the world over. They have raised their voices in favour of our cause at all the meetings of the world peace movement, and at many other international conferences, especially at the 1955 Helsinki Peace Assembly, the 1957 Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference in Cairo and at the recent Congress for Disarmament and International Cooperation in Stockholm. The peoples of Asia, Africa and the world have severely condemned U.S. intervention in South Vietnam and have firmly demanded full implementation of the Geneva Agreements and negotiations for the peaceful reunification of Vietnam.

The valuable support of the peoples of the world for our just cause fills us with enthusiasm. We are not alone in our struggle for peace and unity. Our struggle is closely linked with that of the peoples of Asia, Africa and the world for peace and national independence. Though it is hard and difficult, it will surely come to a victorious end. The U.S. — Diem clique cannot annul the Geneva Agreements which have received full recognition by all peoples throughout the world.

The Geneva Agreements concerning Cambodia and Laos have been implemented. We hail the reunification of Laos and welcome the policy of neutrality and peace followed by the Royal Cambodian

Government led by Premier Sihanouk. The Geneva Agreements concerning Vietnam should also be fully implemented, Vietnam should be reunified.

IV. — PRESENT TASKS OF THE VIETNAM PEACE MOVEMENT

At the present time, the peace forces of the world, backed by the socialist camp, have grown powerful; the national liberation movement is gathering momentum. However the American imperialists, in the pursuance of their selfish interests, still cling to their warlike, aggressive schemes. They are making frantic attempts to smash the peoples who are heroically rising up for independence and freedom, to kindle local wars and to prepare an atomic war. They are interfering more and more actively in South Vietnam, and together with their henchmen are wrecking the peace and unity of Vietnam. Meanwhile, in North Vietnam we have successfully restored our economy and begun our three-year plan of further advance along the road to socialism. In this situation what are the tasks of the peace movement in Vietnam?

President Ho Chi Minh's message to the Vietnamese People's Peace Congress has clearly defined them:

On the national level, the Vietnam Peace Movement will actively carry out the policies formulated by the Vietnam Lao Dong Party, the

Vietnam National Assembly, the Government of the Vietnam Democratic Republic and the Vietnam Fatherland Front; it will carry on the fight against U.S. intervention in South Vietnam, for the full implementation of the Geneva Agreements and national reunification; it will contribute to mobilizing the Vietnamese people into the emulation drive to make North Vietnam strong and prosperous. The following are its concrete tasks:

1. — To fight against U.S. intervention in South Vietnam;

— Against the bringing of foreign military personnel, arms, munitions and war materials into South Vietnam;

— Against forcible conscription in South Vietnam and for a bilateral reduction of the armed forces of the two zones;

— Against the setting-up of new military bases in South Vietnam;

— Against U.S. economic aid, against U.S. — Diem oppression and exploitation; for the improvement of the living conditions of the people in South Vietnam.

— Against decadent U.S. culture which fosters war-mindness.

2. — To fight for the full implementation of the Geneva Agreements,

— Against the violations of the Geneva Agreements by the U.S. — Diem clique;

— Against the repression of patriotic and peace movements in South Vietnam; for the respect of democratic liberties;

— For the normalization of relations between the North and the South; for commercial, cultural, postal exchanges, and free circulation between the two zones;

— For the holding of the consultative conference to discuss general elections and national reunification.

3. — To mobilize the people for the construction of North Vietnam.

The Vietnam Peace Movement will contribute to mobilizing the people in the emulation drive for 'greater quantity, speed, quality and lower costs' in production; to urge the people to carry out their daily work, and to overfulfil the state plan, with a view to increasing production, developing economy and culture, advancing towards socialism, making North Vietnam strong and prosperous. This will provide a solid foundation for our struggle to reunify our Fatherland and contribute to the preservation of world peace.

Internationally, the Vietnam Peace Movement will continue to take part in the world peace movement, to support the national liberation movement and strengthen friendship with all peoples.

The resolution of the 1957 Cairo Conference and the Stockholm Congress for Disarmament and International Cooperation, the Moscow Peace Manifesto and the recent Sino-Soviet Joint Statement have clearly formulated the lines and purposes of the struggle of all peace forces throughout the world. These have been warmly endorsed by our people and the peoples of the world.

Here are the concrete tasks of the peace movement in Vietnam:

1. — To join in the world peace movement:
 - Against the arms drive, for disarmament talks;
 - For the cessation of nuclear tests, for a ban on atomic and hydrogen weapons;
 - For the liquidation of all military blocs and all military bases on foreign soil;
 - Against the militarization of Western Germany, for the establishment of an atom-free zone in Central Europe and in Asia;
 - For a General Security Pact;
 - For the implementation of the five principles of peaceful coexistence, the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, and broad economic and cultural cooperation among all peoples based on the principle of equality and mutual benefit.

As emergency measures we demand:

A peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem; the immediate withdrawal of U.S. and British troops from Lebanon and Jordan;

An end to all nuclear tests;

— A summit Conference to solve urgent international problems and ease international tension.

2. — To support the movement for national independence and all movements for unity and territorial integrity:

— To support the brother Algerian people in their resistance war against the French colonialists, for national independence;

— To support the peoples of Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, the United Arab Republic, and other Arab countries in their struggle against the U.S. and British aggressors in defence of national independence;

— To support the struggle of all colonial peoples against colonialism and imperialism, against intervention, oppression and subjugation by the U.S. for sovereignty and independence;

— To support the Korean and German peoples' struggle for unity;

— To support the Chinese people's struggle to liberate Taiwan, to demand the restitution to the People's Republic of China of its rightful place in the United Nations.

— To support the Indonesian people's struggle

to recover West Irian and completely liquidate the rebellion.

— To support the Indian people's struggle to recover the territory of Goa, the Japanese people's struggle to recover the island of Okinawa.

3. To strengthen friendship with all peoples:

— To strengthen the friendship between the Vietnamese people and the peoples of the Soviet Union, China and brother socialist countries.

— To establish and develop friendly relations between our people and the peoples of the two neighbouring countries, Cambodia and Laos; the peoples of India, Indonesia, Burma, the peoples of Asia and Africa, the French people and all peace-loving peoples the world over.

— To give regular accounts of the situation in Vietnam to other peoples; to learn about the latter's struggles for world peace and national independence and make them known to the Vietnamese people; to organize cultural anniversaries according to the decisions of the World Peace Council.

We are strongly devoted to peace. We will never allow war to break out again and devastate our country, kill our people. We will never allow

science, technology and atomic energy to be misused for the destruction of millions of human beings; on the contrary, we will demand that they be used for the progress and happiness of mankind.

We cannot suffer that our beloved country should remain divided and its Southern part turned into a bridgehead for the U.S. warmongers.

Under the clear-sighted leadership of the Vietnam Lao Dong Party and President Ho Chi Minh, in close cooperation with the peace and independence-loving peoples of the world, we will resolutely fight for peace and unity.

Our struggle will be long and hard; but peace has once triumphed; it will triumph again and forever. Our beloved Fatherland shall be reunified.

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