

STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

The Paris Agreement on Vietnam is a very great victory of the most glorious war of resistance in the Vietnamese nation's history of struggle against foreign invasion, an epoch-making victory of the forces of socialism, national independence, democracy and peace, and of the freedom and justice loving people around the world.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam have scrupulously implemented all the provisions of the Agreement, and have put up a resolute struggle to demand that the other side do the same, with a view to ensuring an effective ceasefire, restoring and consolidating peace, and ensuring the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination.

The implementation of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam has lasted 60 days. The US Government has had to stop the war in both South and North Vietnam, to withdraw from South Vietnam all American troops and those of the other foreign countries allied to the United States, and to cease completely its direct armed aggression against Vietnam. For the first time in over one hundred years there are no more invading troops on Vietnamese soil. This is a very important victory in the Vietnamese nation's glorious history of struggle for the independence and freedom of the fatherland.

Nearly 20 years ago, the US Government, seriously misjudging the Vietnamese people's national spirit and the trend of the world revolution, sabotaged the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam, and intervened in the internal affairs of Vietnam in an attempt to establish the US neocolonialist rule in South Vietnam. This mistake led the United States into a costly war in terms of human lives and material resources, a war which has turned out to be the longest and the most difficult one in American history. The Paris Agreement on Vietnam has opened for the United States a way out of this war.

However, while being compelled to pull out of Vietnam, the US Government is not yet willing to strictly end its military involvement and its intervention in the internal affairs of South Vietnam and to give up its scheme of maintaining and consolidating the Saigon administration, its instrument for implementing neocolonialism. It is for this reason that the US Government and the Saigon administration have brazenly and systematically violated many essential provisions of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam.

With the US Government's support, the Saigon administration, disregarding the provisions on the ceasefire, has launched tens of thousands of encroaching operations against the areas under the control of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam. In many places in South Vietnam, the shooting has not ended, the bloodshed has not stopped and devastations continue to be daily occurrences. Two months after the stipulated date for its entry into force, the ceasefire is not yet effective in South Vietnam. This is an extremely grave situation which directly threatens peace in South Vietnam.

The Saigon administration, brazenly sabotaging the provisions on democratic liberties, has carried out tens of thousands of police and pacification operations aimed at terrorising and repressing the South Vietnamese people; operations which are in no way different in scale and atrocity from wartime operations. It has carried out intensive massacres and arrests, and has continued to herd tens of thousands of people into concentration camps. It

has enacted fascist laws to increase coercion against the South Vietnamese people. In the areas under its control, the population has continued to be denied the minimum freedoms such as those of movement, of residence, of work, of the Press, of gathering . . .

In its obstinacy, the Saigon administration has failed to return the civilian personnel arrested and detained by it to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, in violation of Article 8 (c) of the Agreement and of the commitment of the US Government. 60 days after the signing of the Agreement, hundreds of thousands of political prisoners have not yet been allowed to return to their families, and are still languishing in shackles and under tortures in the prisons of South Vietnam. Many of them have been taken to unknown places or secretly killed. This state of affairs has caused a deep shock to the conscience of progressive mankind. Many international organisations, celebrated personalities, and broad segments of world public opinion have voiced their strong indignation, and demanded that the Saigon administration immediately set free all the persons it is detaining.

Meanwhile, the US Government has left behind in South Vietnam over ten thousand military personnel disguised as civilian advisers, and has illegally brought weapons, munitions and war materials in increased quantities into South Vietnam. With regard to North Vietnam, the US Government has tried to delay and prolong the mine-clearing operations in the territorial waters, ports, harbours and rivers of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, thus prolonging in fact the blockade of its territorial waters. Moreover, the US Government has stepped up the war in Cambodia, continued the bombing of Laos, increased the US military forces in Thailand, and maintained a big air and naval force in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, thus directly menacing the peace and security of Vietnam, Indochina and Southeast Asia. To cover up its own violations, the US Government has slanderously accused the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam of 'violating the Agreement', and it has uttered threats against the Vietnamese people.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam strongly denounces the above-mentioned serious violations of the provisions concerning the ceasefire as well as of other provisions of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam, which have been committed by the US Government and the Saigon administration, and which seriously jeopardise peace in South Vietnam. The US Government and the Saigon administration must bear full responsibility for all consequences arising from their violations.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam firmly demands that the US Government and the Saigon administration immediately stop all violations of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam, strictly respect and scrupulously implement all the provisions of the Agreement and of the Acts of the International Conference on Vietnam. The Saigon administration must scrupulously implement the provisions concerning the ceasefire, immediately stop the encroaching operations and bombardments against the areas under the control of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, immediately end the 'pacification' operations aimed at terrorising and coercing the South Vietnamese people, ensure democratic freedoms to the latter, first and foremost freedom of movement, freedom to return and settle in their native places, and immediately return all captured and detained civilian personnel. The US Government must strictly end its military

involvement and its intervention in the internal affairs of South Vietnam. It must honour its responsibility to prod the Saigon administration to strictly respect and scrupulously implement all the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam. The US Government must scrupulously carry out its obligations with regard to the clearing of mines in the territorial waters, ports, harbours and rivers of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The unswerving position of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam as well, is to scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement on Vietnam, and to demand that the other side do the same. Only if the US Government draws the lessons of the past, gives up the policies that led to war, and scrupulously implements the Paris Agreement on Vietnam will it be possible to ensure a stable peace in Vietnam and contribute to the preservation of lasting peace in Indochina and Southeast Asia. Only in this way can an era of reconciliation be ushered in between the United States and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, as well as between the United States and all nations of Indochina, and conditions created for establishing a new relationship between the United States and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, as provided for in the Paris Agreement on Vietnam.

Countrymen and fighters throughout the country !

Through a tenacious and heroic struggle, our people have won a great victory with the conclusion of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam, and gained a very important success in its implementation. The struggle for the implementation of the Paris Agreement is still hard and complex, but victory will certainly belong to the Vietnamese people. Our people's cause is just. We have the strength of our national unity, we have traditions of patriotism, revolutionary heroism, and moreover we have the Paris Agreement and the Act of the International Conference on Vietnam as a political and juridical basis guaranteeing our people's fundamental national rights and the right of our Southern countrymen to self-determination. In addition, we enjoy strong sympathy and support from the fraternal socialist countries and the peace and justice loving people around the world.

Countrymen and fighters throughout the country, enhance your vigilance, be united with one mind, stand ready to defeat all schemes and acts of the forces of reaction and war to sabotage the Agreement and undermine peace, thereby ensuring the strict implementation of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam. No brute force, no insolent threat, no perfidious trick can shake the Vietnamese people's ironlike resolve to fight for the peace, independence and freedom of the fatherland.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam calls on all countrymen and fighters throughout the country to strive hard to carry out the Testament of the venerated President Ho Chi Minh, and to march forward eagerly with the determination to complete the glorious cause of building a peaceful, reunified, independent, democratic and prosperous Vietnam, and thus to contribute to the struggle of the people around the world for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

The sentiments linking Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia have been built at the price of blood in a protracted fight against the common enemy, for the independence and freedom of each country, and our people are resolved to wholeheartedly support the just cause of the fraternal peoples of Laos and Cambodia.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam sincerely thanks the governments and peoples of the socialist countries, of peace and justice loving countries, the international democratic organisations, the world's peoples, and the progressive American people for the wholehearted support they have always extended to the Vietnamese people's patriotic resistance war against US aggression, and for their active struggle to contribute to the bringing about of the conclusion of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam calls on all brothers and friends in the five continents to extend continued, strong support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's just cause, and to resolutely struggle to compel the US Government and the Saigon administration to strictly respect and scrupulously implement all the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam, with a view to ensuring a stable peace in Vietnam, and contributing to the maintenance of lasting peace in Indochina, Asia and the world.

HANOI

30th March 1973
