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HANOI

On the Declaration Regarding the Vietnam Issue

The [North Vietnamese] Foreign Minister has informed me about Vietnam's view regarding the proposed declaration by the Warsaw Treaty's Political Consultative Committee about the Vietnamese issue. He stated that after July 1966 (the Bucharest PCC meeting), the Vietnamese people achieved many victories in the struggle against American imperialism. This year, significant success was achieved due to the activities of the National [Liberation] Front forces and the South Vietnamese people and has thus created a more favorable situation for the success of the South Vietnamese revolution. The Foreign Minister believes that under these circumstances, a declaration by the Warsaw Treaty's Consultative Committee that decisively and energetically supports the struggle of the Vietnamese people against aggression, would be very timely and important, so they would welcome and appreciate it.

In particular, [the Democratic Republic of] Vietnam has made the following suggestions related to the content of such a declaration:

- To honor the victories of the Vietnamese people from the North and the South -- i.e., the victories of last spring -- which led to a new phase of the war in South Vietnam and are providing a solid foundation for the achievement of a "total victory." They prove the power of the National Front [for the Liberation of South Vietnam], the decay of the puppet army and administration, and the inevitable defeat of the aggressive U.S. policy in Vietnam. These victories are a contribution to the security of the socialist community and to the protection of peace.
- To condemn the extremely barbarous misdeeds of the American imperialists in Vietnam, especially against the population of the South Vietnamese villages, by supporting the declaration of the Central Committee of the National Front dated February 15; the open letter from professor Le Van Hao, Chairman of the Alliance of National Forces for Democracy and Peace in Hue dated February 18; and the declaration issued by the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam dated February 25.
- To emphasize that a fair basis for the settlement of the Vietnam issue are Hanoi's four points position and the political program of the National Front, stating that the USA is an

aggressor and that it must withdraw from Vietnam. This is their only alternative, which is supported by the socialist states and the world progressive community.

- To denounce the USA's persistence in waging this war. The government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has repeatedly declared their readiness to begin negotiations with the USA once they have terminated hostilities against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. This declaration was welcomed by the world public. However, the USA's insistence on the San Antonio formula, which in effect lays down conditions for a termination of bombing, constitutes evidence that the USA is not willing to conduct serious talks for a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam issue, for which they are completely responsible.
- To severely warn the American imperialists that if they continue to wage and expand the war, they are assuming commitments with unpredictable consequences. The Warsaw Treaty states stand ready to fulfill their duty with regard to the Vietnamese people and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam – a socialist state at the frontline against imperialism -- and they stand ready to support Vietnam until its total victory. Furthermore, the Warsaw Treaty states are ready to send volunteers to Vietnam upon request.

Following my conversation with Deputy Foreign Minister Tien and taking into consideration the aforementioned situation, I may say that the National Front is not considered the only legal representative of the South Vietnamese people. The existence of new political organizations, such as the one in Hue, and the Alliance of National Forces for Democracy and Peace in Saigon, are now being taken into account.

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(Diplomatic Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sofia, Opis 32, File 29, pp. 186-187.)

[Translation by Jordan Baev]