

DECLARATION

On the US Aggression in Vietnam

The People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, represented at the Bucharest Meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty Member States, discussed the situation that has arisen following the aggression of the United States of America in Vietnam, especially in the light of the new criminal acts of the American armed forces directed towards the intensification of the war against the Vietnamese people.

The Meeting participants consider the bombing of the environs of Hanoi city and of the port of Haiphong — the largest populated centres of North Vietnam — as a new and more dangerous step of the American policy of "escalation" of the war in Vietnam. In consequence of this, the war in Vietnam seriously complicates the international situation and assumes a new and more dangerous character for the cause of universal peace and security.

The Meeting participants indignantly condemn these criminal actions and declare their full support for the courageous struggle of the brother Vietnamese people for the defence of the freedom and independence, for the unity and integrity of their homeland.

I

The war the United States of America is waging in Vietnam is the most cynical expression of the aggressive line of the policy of American imperialism. This is a flouting of international law, of the international agreements and a gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations Organization. Nobody else but the USA has frustrated the carrying out of the 1954 Geneva Agreements which provided for the holding of general elections in Vietnam and the unification of Vietnam without foreign interference.

The US troops have come to Vietnam as invaders, as stiflers of the freedom and independence of the Vietnamese people. In the bandit war it is waging against Vietnam, the USA is

increasingly resorting to barbarous and inhumane means, is destroying the peaceful population, does not refrain from using napalm and toxic substances. Those who perpetrate these barbarities follow the path of the Hitlerite war criminals.

The acts committed by the American troops, as well as by their satellites in Vietnam, are crimes against peace and humanity which entail the gravest international responsibility. The aggressors must take account of the lessons of history and not forget that they will not be able to escape responsibility for their misdeeds.

The American aggressors will not be able to avoid paying for the enormous destructions and material damages caused to the Vietnamese people, for the ruined towns and villages, for the burnt hospitals and schools, for the destroyed communication means, for all the barbarity committed against the peaceful population.

The US Government must know: the greater the number of crimes against the Vietnamese people, the higher the gravity of the guilt, the severest the punishment for this guilt.

The US Government is trying to impose by means of arms regimes of its choosing on the population of South Vietnam, to maintain there a decayed regime of military dictatorship, a regime loathed by the people, and relying only on the American bayonets. Nobody is entitled to dictate its will to the Vietnamese people or to the people of any other country. Only the Vietnamese people can decide their regime in their country, as this is their inalienable right.

The United States of America would like to subjugate also other countries of the Indo-China peninsula. It intensifies its brutal interference in the internal affairs of Laos, is bombing the territory of that country, is continuing the provocations against independent Cambodia.

All this demonstrates that the US imperialism is seeking to suppress the national liberation movement of the peoples, to violate their sacred rights to decide their destiny themselves, to choose their way of development in accordance with their aspirations.

The danger involved by the aggressive actions of the US Government is growing even more

owing to the fact that it is trying to draw into the war in Vietnam also its allies. Australia and New Zealand, Thailand and the Philippines, as well as the South Korea puppet regime have sent or are sending troops to participate in the war against the Vietnamese people. The German Federal Republic gives political and material support to the United States in Vietnam. The countries which help the aggressors by arms deliveries, which allow the USA to use their territories for the transportation and supply of the American troops in Vietnam, are accomplices in the aggression.

Sooner or later the governments of all these countries will have to answer for these actions before their peoples.

Nobody can be deceived by the US Government's declarations that it is willing to conduct talks for the settlement of the Vietnamese question. These declarations about "peaceful intentions" and "peace negotiations" are completely false, as they are accompanied not only by the continuation, but also by the extension of the military actions.

There is a flagrant incompatibility between the continuation of the war in Vietnam and the allegations of the USA which declares that it wishes to undertake steps along the path of disarmament.

The parties, governments and peoples of our countries express their admiration for the courage, staunchness and firmness of the heroic Vietnamese people to achieve victory in the fight against the invaders. No matter how obstinate the aggressors would be, no matter what new crimes they would perpetrate, they will not be able to break the Vietnamese people's will for liberty and independence. The Meeting participants consider that by their fight against US imperialism the Vietnamese people not only defend their national rights but also make an important contribution to the fight of the countries of the world socialist system, of all peoples for peace, independence, democracy and socialism. The just cause of the Vietnamese people enjoys the profound sympathy and full solidarity of the socialist countries, of the international working class and of the communist and workers' parties, of the national liberation movement, of all the forces of peace and progress.

II

The Warsaw Treaty Member States, signatories to this Declaration, most firmly reassert their position on the Vietnamese question.

The American Government must stop immediately the aggressive war in Vietnam, must observe the basic national rights of the Vietnamese people to peace, national independence, unity and territorial integrity, stipulated by the 1954 Geneva agreements on Vietnam.

Proceeding from the principle that the right to decide their own affairs belongs exclusively to the Vietnamese people, the States partici-

pating in this Meeting fully back the four-point programme of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the five-point programme of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, a correct basis for the political settlement of the Vietnamese question.

This fully corresponds to the 1954 Geneva agreements, complies with the interests of peace in South-East Asia and the world over.

The United States of America must strictly observe the Geneva agreements on Vietnam, must end the aggression against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, must forthwith, finally and unconditionally stop the bombing of its territory, must halt the armed intervention in South Vietnam, withdraw its troops and the troops of its satellites from South Vietnam, dismantle all the US military bases from that country, recognize the National Liberation Front as the only authentic representative of the population of South Vietnam, recognize the Vietnamese people's right to decide their own destiny without foreign interference, to solve independently the problem of the peaceful unification of the country.

III

Examining the situation in Vietnam, that has developed following the extension of the military actions by the United States of America, the Warsaw Treaty Member States :

1. Most firmly warn the US Government as to the responsibility it takes upon itself before all mankind by continuing and extending this war, as to all the imprevisible consequences that may follow from this, inclusive for the United States of America.

2. Give and will give the Democratic Republic of Vietnam growing and many-sided moral-political support — inclusive of economic and support in defensive means, in materials, technical means and experts — necessary for a victorious repelling of the American aggression, in view of the needs involved by the new phase of the war in Vietnam.

3. Are ready to offer, at the request from the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the possibility to their volunteers to go to Vietnam in order to aid the Vietnamese people in their fight against the US aggressors.

4. Firmly condemn the US actions meant to extend the war to Laos and Cambodia; express their solidarity with the peoples of those countries, demand the strict observance by the United States of America of the 1954 and 1962 Geneva agreements with regard to these states as well, the observance of their sovereignty, independence, neutrality and territorial integrity.

IV

The parties and governments of our countries consider necessary the unity of action of the socialist states for the achieving of the vic-

tory of the Vietnamese people. Each of our countries is determined to spare no effort and to undertake every necessary step in order to help the Vietnamese people to put an end to the US aggression.

The States participating in this Meeting call upon all states that treasure peace, upon all the progressive and peace-loving forces, upon public opinion the world over, upon the international working-class movement, upon the communist and workers' parties to unite in a fighting front against the US aggression, to take a resolute stand against the barbarous war in Vietnam, in support of the courageous struggle of the Vietnamese people.

The Warsaw Treaty Member States call upon the governments of all states to do everything in their power to end the US aggression in Vietnam, to liquidate the hotbed of war in South-

East Asia, to determine the lessening of tension and the normalization of international relations. The US actions in Vietnam cannot and must not be treated with indifference by any state, any government concerned with the destinies of peace. These actions threaten not only the independence and freedom of the Vietnamese people, but engender a more and more serious peril to general peace.

Our countries express their confidence that the peace forces, which support the fight of the Vietnamese people, can compel the US imperialists to stop the aggression in Vietnam and in this way can make a great contribution to the ensuring of peace the world over.

The just cause for which the Vietnamese people are fighting will triumph! The people of Vietnam will win!

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