

DECLARATION

on the Threat to Peace Resulting from Extension of American Aggression in Vietnam

The members of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, represented at the Meeting of the Political Consultative Committee in Sofia—the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Rumania, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic—discussed the situation brought about by the further extension of American aggression in Vietnam.

The participants in the Meeting, reaffirming the principled positions set out in the Statement on the United States' aggression in Vietnam, adopted at the Bucharest Meeting of the Political Consultative Committee on July 6, 1966, note that the escalation of American aggression against the Vietnamese people is a serious threat to world peace. Intensified bombing of densely-populated centres including the capital of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam—Hanoi, and the port of Haiphong, the latest increase in the numerical strength of American forces in South Vietnam, the expansion of military operations against states bordering on Vietnam—Laos and Cambodia, taken together, is a still more dangerous step in American policy of extending the war against the Vietnamese people. The reckless threats made by some American military and political leaders to use nuclear weapons in Vietnam are fresh manifestations of the aggressive policy of blackmail and pressure and are a challenge to all peoples striving for peace.

These events complicate not only the situation in South-East Asia but the international situation as a whole, and are one of the main sources of tension in the world.

A half-million-strong American army is now in Vietnam, a country thousands of kilometres from the United States of America, as a conqueror, a strangler of freedom, whose object is to impose its will upon the Vietnamese people through force of arms and to establish in

the South a colonial order in the interests of American imperialism. But the Vietnamese people reject foreign domination. They are defending their inalienable right to settle their own destiny without any outside interference, under the terms of the Geneva Agreements, which the United States has flagrantly flouted.

In their attempts to smash the resistance of the Vietnamese people the American aggressors commit numberless crimes. They wreak vengeance on the peaceful population of Vietnam because of their military-political failures. Their disgraceful path on Vietnamese soil is marked by the killing of tens of thousands of civilians, the destruction of schools and hospitals, savage bombing and shelling by rockets, the devastation of whole towns and villages.

The participants in the Meeting resolutely denounce American imperialism's barbarous actions against the Vietnamese people. Inexorable retribution awaits those guilty of crimes against peace and mankind.

Those governments, which together with the United States overtly or covertly participate in the aggression and in all atrocities against the heroic Vietnamese people, will not escape responsibility either. This refers to Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the South Korean puppet—all who have sent troops to South Vietnam to participate in the piratical war in the imperialist interests of the United States. This also applies to other states including reactionary revanchist circles in the Federal Republic of Germany that are rendering political and material aid to the American aggressors.

The US Government must realise that neither escalated aggression nor new crimes will help it break the will of the courageous people to defend their freedom, independence and national existence. The US Government will meet even stronger rebuff on the part of the Vietnamese people who have the support and all-round

