

THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S GREAT VICTORY

Warm Congratulations to the South Vietnamese
People on the Liberation of Saigon
and All South Viet Nam

越南人民的伟大胜利
——热烈庆贺越南南方人民解放
西贡和完全解放越南南方

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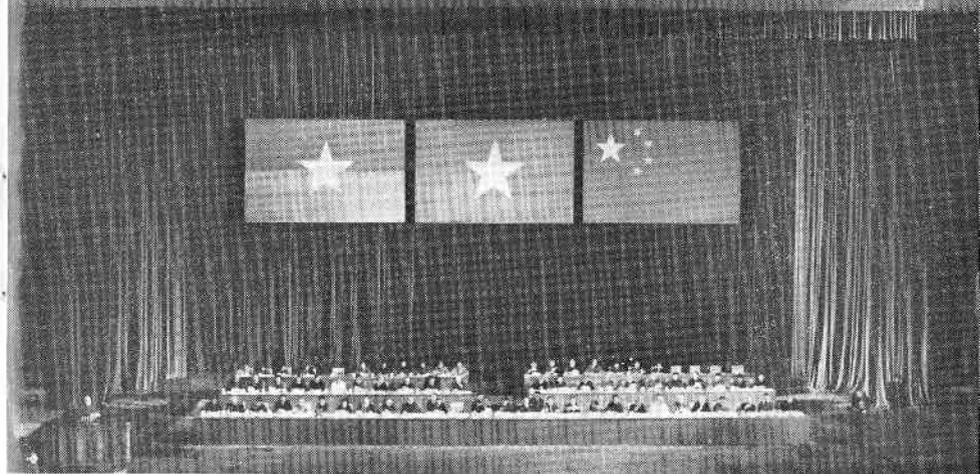
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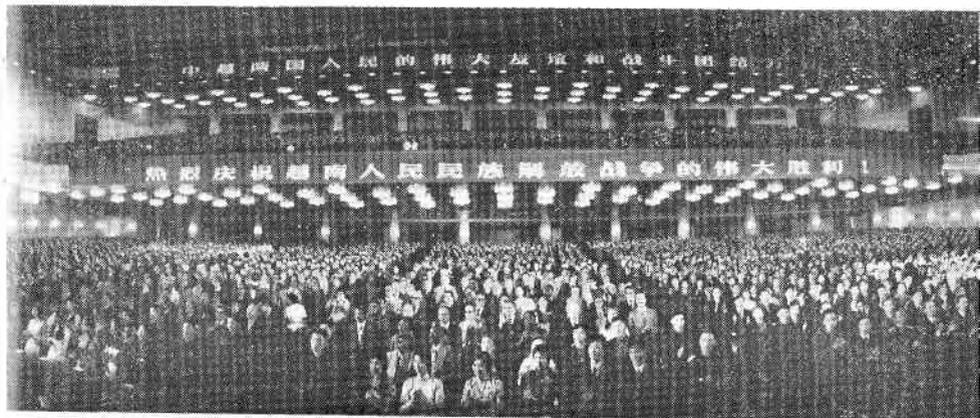
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PEKING 1975

首都人民庆祝越南南方人民解放西贡大会
CUỘC MIT TINH CỦA NHÂN DÂN THỦ ĐÔ CHÀO MỪNG NHÂN DÂN MIỀN NAM VIỆT NAM GIẢI PHÓNG SÀI GÒN



The people of Peking meet in a grand rally warmly celebrating the great victory of the heroic south Vietnamese people in liberating Saigon and the whole of south Viet Nam. The photo shows the rostrum.

The rally in session.





Teng Hsiao-ping, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Vice-Premier of the State Council, and other leading comrades call at the Embassy of the Republic of South Viet Nam (*upper*) and the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam (*lower*) in Peking, offering warmest congratulations on the great victory of liberating Saigon by the south Vietnamese army and people.



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**MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM
CHAIRMAN MAO TSETUNG, CHAIRMAN CHU TEH
AND PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI TO PRESIDENT
NGUYEN HUU THO, PRESIDENT HUYNH TAN PHAT
AND COMRADES TON DUC THANG, LE DUAN,
TRUONG CHINH AND PHAM VAN DONG**

His Excellency Nguyen Huu Tho,
President of the Presidium of the Central Committee
of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation,

His Excellency Huynh Tan Phat,
President of the Provisional Revolutionary Govern-
ment of the Republic of South Viet Nam,
Saigon.

Comrade Ton Duc Thang,
President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam,

Comrade Le Duan,
First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Viet
Nam Workers' Party,

Comrade Truong Chinh,
Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National
Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam,

Comrade Pham Van Dong,
Premier of the Government of the Democratic Re-
public of Viet Nam,

Hanoi.

The south Vietnamese army men and civilians, after fighting long and valiantly, have thoroughly crushed the puppet regime in south Viet Nam and finally liberated Saigon. This is a great victory for the people of Viet Nam and all Indochina who have persisted in a protracted revolutionary armed struggle. The Chinese people are greatly overjoyed and inspired by these glad tidings. On behalf of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese Government and the Chinese people, we extend our warmest congratulations and highest salute to you, to the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, to the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and to the entire Vietnamese people in the north and the south.

For the sake of the independence of their fatherland and the liberation of their nation, the heroic Vietnamese people, holding high the brilliant banner of "firm resolve to fight and to win" of President Ho Chi Minh and advancing wave upon wave, waged a tenacious and extremely arduous struggle for decades, successively defeated the "special warfare," the "local war" and the "Vietnamized" war unleashed by U.S. imperialism and its lackeys and won great victories one after another. In the new situation after the signing of the Paris agreement, the Vietnamese people resolutely fought back in self-defence against the crimes of violating the Paris agreement, refusing to realize national concord and rabidly massacring the people, which were committed by the Saigon puppet clique with the backing

of the U.S. Government, and now finally have defeated the counter-revolutionary war with revolutionary war and won the splendid victory of the complete liberation of south Viet Nam. Your victory ushers in a new era, the era of the liberation of Viet Nam, and has a great historical importance and international significance. Your victory greatly inspires all the oppressed nations and peoples engaged in struggle and sets a brilliant example in the anti-imperialist revolutionary cause of the people of the whole world. The victory of the Vietnamese people is another eloquent proof that any people, even the people of a small country, can surely defeat any outwardly strong enemy and win final victory for their just cause of defending their country's independence and freedom and winning national liberation so long as they dare to rise in struggle and take up arms in a just war to oppose an unjust war and fight persistently, fearing no difficulties, sacrifices or setbacks.

China and Viet Nam are closely-related neighbours like the lips and the teeth, and our two peoples are comrades-in-arms and brothers sharing hardships and difficulties. We Chinese people have always regarded the Vietnamese people's struggle as our own struggle and their victory as our own victory. In the protracted revolutionary struggle of the past, our two peoples have supported and encouraged each other. In the days to come, the Chinese people will continue unswervingly to unite and fight together with the Vietnamese people. We sincerely wish the south Vietnamese people successive new and greater victories in their continued struggle to carry through their national and democratic revolution.

A new Viet Nam that is independent, free, unified and prosperous will certainly come into being.

Mao Tsetung

Chairman of the Central Committee
of the Communist Party of China

Chu Teh

Chairman of the Standing Committee
of the National People's Congress
of the People's Republic of China

Chou En-lai

Premier of the State Council of
the People's Republic of China

Peking, April 30, 1975

**SPEECH BY VICE-CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING AT
THE PEKING RALLY IN CELEBRATION OF THE
LIBERATION OF SAIGON AND THE WHOLE
OF SOUTH VIET NAM**

(May 2, 1975)

Respected Charge d'Affaires ad interim Tran Binh,
Respected Ambassador Nguyen Trong Vinh,
Respected Prime Minister Samdech Penn Nouth,
Comrades and Friends,

A fortnight ago, we celebrated here the great victory of the liberation of Phnom Penh by the heroic Cambodian people. Today, the people of all circles in our capital are again jubilantly holding a grand rally here to warmly celebrate the great victory of the capture of Saigon and the complete liberation of south Viet Nam by the heroic south Vietnamese people and partake of the joy of victory with our Vietnamese comrades-in-arms. Now, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese people's great leader Chairman Mao Tsetung, the Communist Party of China and the Chinese Government and people, to extend our warmest congratulations and high salute to the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam and the heroic south Vietnamese people's armed forces, to the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic

Republic of Viet Nam and to the fraternal Vietnamese people in the south and the north.

The Vietnamese people's war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation is the most fierce and protracted of all anti-aggression wars since the Second World War. It will be recalled that as soon as the Geneva agreements were signed in 1954, U.S. imperialism perfidiously and brazenly tore up the agreements and stretched its claws of aggression into south Viet Nam, groomed the Ngo Dinh Diem puppet clique, rabidly massacred south Vietnamese people and perpetrated sanguinary suppression of the Vietnamese revolution. But where there is oppression there is resistance. The Vietnamese people who have a glorious tradition of combating imperialism and colonialism were not cowed by the ferocity of imperialism and its lackeys. Holding high the banner of "firm resolve to fight and to win" of President Ho Chi Minh, they waged a vigorous people's war, defying brute force, fearing no sacrifice, advancing wave upon wave and fighting relentlessly and valiantly against the reactionary U.S.-puppet clique. Amidst the flames of the revolutionary war, the south Vietnamese people's armed forces grew from small to big and from weak to strong, and were steeled and became a powerful people's army. They successively smashed the "special warfare," the "local war" and the "Vietnamized" war unleashed by U.S. imperialism. Under the leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government and with energetic support and assistance from the people in north Viet Nam and throughout the world, the south Vietnamese army-men and civilians grew stronger as they fought. Firmly

holding the initiative in the war and ceaselessly launching fierce attacks on the enemy, they annihilated large numbers of enemy effectives, frustrated the various schemes of aggression of the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys and finally compelled the United States and the puppet regime to sign the Paris agreement in 1973. All the U.S. aggressor troops were compelled to withdraw from south Viet Nam. But at the same time, the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet clique, instigated and backed by the United States, unscrupulously violated the Paris agreement, refused to effect national concord, constantly encroached on the liberated areas in south Viet Nam and rabidly suppressed and massacred south Vietnamese people. In the face of these criminal activities of the reactionary Saigon clique, the patriotic south Vietnamese army-men and civilians firmly launched a righteous counter-offensive in self-defence and punished it with a fatal blow. On April 26 this year the people's liberation armed forces started the operation named the Ho Chi Minh campaign. With overwhelming and all-conquering might, they thoroughly routed the Saigon puppet troops, crushed the puppet regime and finally, on April 30, completely liberated Saigon — the glorious City of Ho Chi Minh — and won the most splendid victory of Viet Nam's war for national liberation.

The great victory of the Vietnamese people's war for national liberation is of tremendous international importance and far-reaching historic significance. The history of their war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation, which lasted for more than a decade, is a history of the victory of a protracted people's war over a frenzied imperialist war of aggression as well as an illus-

trious proof that a small country can defeat a big one and a weak country can defeat a strong one. The great victory of the Vietnamese people's war against aggression gives powerful encouragement to the anti-imperialist revolutionary struggles of the people of all countries and sets a glorious example for all the oppressed nations and oppressed peoples in their struggles for liberation.

The war of aggression waged by U.S. imperialism in south Viet Nam for more than a decade was a most brutal neo-colonialist war. U.S. imperialism not only equipped a million or so puppet troops but dispatched several hundred thousands of its own troops. It used all modern lethal weapons including toxic chemicals, short of the atom bomb, dropped a greater tonnage of bombs than was used throughout the Second World War and employed all kinds of vicious strategies and tactics. All this brought enormous sufferings to the Vietnamese people. However, the course of the war in Viet Nam is also an eloquent proof that the people, and not weapons, are the main factor deciding the outcome of a war. The Vietnamese people, though a people of a small and weak country, are able to defeat a big and strong enemy because their struggle is a just one and because they dare to defy all seemingly powerful enemies and persist in a relentless and brave protracted armed struggle and are good at using revolutionary dual tactics to frustrate counter-revolutionary dual tactics. The victory of the Vietnamese people's liberation struggle provides valuable experience for the liberation cause of the oppressed nations and oppressed peoples of the world and has made a great contribution to the cause.

Comrades and friends,

At present the international situation is excellent, and the situation in Indochina is all the more inspiring. The victories of the Cambodian people and the Vietnamese people have definitely struck a most crushing blow at imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism. In this favourable situation, the people of all countries will further uphold unity and persevere in struggle and win new victories in the fight against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism.

China and Viet Nam are close neighbours linked by mountains and rivers and mutually dependent like the lips and the teeth. Our two peoples are dear and near comrades-in-arms and brothers. In the protracted revolutionary struggle, they have always sympathized with and supported each other and have forged a profound militant friendship. Our friendship has been cultivated personally by the Chinese people's great leader Chairman Mao Tsetung and the Vietnamese people's great leader President Ho Chi Minh. It has been tested by protracted revolutionary wars, and no force on earth can destroy it. Both in the war years of the past and in the present period of socialist revolution and socialist construction, the Chinese people have continuously received the sympathy and support of the fraternal Vietnamese people. We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to our Vietnamese brothers. We wish also to reiterate that we Chinese people always regard the Vietnamese people's struggle as our own struggle and their victory as our own victory. Today, the entire fraternal Vietnamese people are jubilantly celebrating the complete liberation of south Viet Nam; we Chinese people, follow-

ing Chairman Mao's teachings, will continue to perform our internationalist duty, resolutely support the Vietnamese people in their just cause of consolidating their fruits of victory and reunifying and building their fatherland. We are firmly convinced that, under the leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the Vietnamese people in the south and the north will surely overcome all difficulties and obstacles on their road of continued advance and ceaselessly win new and greater victories.

Long live the great victory of the Vietnamese people's war for national liberation!

Long live the great friendship and militant unity of the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples!

SPEECH BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. TRAN BINH
AT THE PEKING RALLY IN CELEBRATION OF
THE LIBERATION OF SAIGON AND THE
WHOLE OF SOUTH VIET NAM

(May 2, 1975)

Respected Comrade Wang Hung-wen, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China,

Respected Comrade Yeh Chien-ying, Vice-Chairman of the C.P.C. Central Committee,

Respected Comrade Teng Hsiao-ping, Vice-Chairman of the C.P.C. Central Committee and Vice-Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China,

Respected Comrade Wu Teh, Chairman of the Peking Municipal Revolutionary Committee,

Respected Samdech Penn Nouth, Chairman of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the National United Front of Cambodia and Prime Minister of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia,

Respected Comrade Nguyen Trong Vinh, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam to China,

Respected Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Charges d'Affaires and Mesdames,

Respected comrades and friends,

Today, in a delightful and joyous atmosphere we would like to express our thanks to Comrades Wang Hung-wen, Yeh Chien-ying, Teng Hsiao-ping and Wu Teh and other comrades leaders of the Party, Government and representatives of all people's strata of Peking capital for organizing this solemn meeting in congratulation of the complete liberation of south Viet Nam.

We feel deeply moved and sincerely thank Vice-Chairman Yeh Chien-ying for his extremely beautiful words about the great victory recorded by the south Vietnamese people, about the friendly relations between the peoples of Viet Nam and China and reaffirm once again the wholehearted support extended by the Chinese people to the Vietnamese people.

On this occasion, we would like comrades to convey the best regards, and the greetings of militant solidarity extended by the leaders of the National Liberation Front and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and of the south Vietnamese people to respected Chairman Mao Tsetung, other leaders of the Chinese Party, Chinese Government and fraternal Chinese people.

Comrades and friends,

Over the past twenty years and more, the U.S. imperialists have grossly trampled underfoot the Geneva agreements, carried out an extremely barbarous war of aggression in south Viet Nam scheming to turn it into a neo-colony of the United States, thus perpetuating the partition of Viet Nam.

Under the glorious banner of great justice of the National Liberation Front and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the south Vietnamese people have bravely waged a great resistance war against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. Enjoying an extremely great support and assistance and encouraged by the splendid exploits and the boundless sacrifices of the kith-and-kin northern compatriots for the cause of liberation of south Viet Nam, the south Vietnamese armed forces and people have enhanced to the greatest extent the revolutionary heroism, persistently and indomitably fought and overcome all sacrifices and hardship in order together with the people throughout the country to defeat many strategies of aggressive war pursued by the U.S. imperialists and thus compelling them to sign the Paris agreement on Viet Nam.

For many years, especially since the signing of the Paris agreement on Viet Nam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has put forth many fair and reasonable proposals and invariably worked hard for the realization of the south Vietnamese people's most imperative aspirations for peace, independence, democracy, national reconciliation and concord, stabilization and improvement of living conditions and proceeding to the ultimate peaceful reunification of the fatherland. But as far as the United States is concerned, it has refused to put an end to its military involvement and interference in the internal affairs of south Viet Nam. It has made every effort to exercise its dangerous and perfidious scheme of maintaining the Saigon puppet administration, sabotaging in a very serious manner many

provisions of the Paris agreement on Viet Nam, continuing the perpetration of crimes against the south Vietnamese people and eluding its response to the south Vietnamese people's fundamental demands.

Being fully aware of beloved President Ho Chi Minh's teaching: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" and determined to achieve their lofty objective in the impetus of the victories, the armed forces and people in the south have launched successive attacks and vigorous uprisings in punishment of all violations and sabotage of the Paris agreement by the U.S. and puppet administration. Within a short period of time they have recorded many victories of strategic significance, creating good conditions for the advance toward the complete liberation of south Viet Nam. In its history, the Vietnamese nation has many times possessed the moment of solemnity, and the Viet Nam revolution in the south is now marching at a new pace. The armed forces and people from their position of superiority over the enemy, on April 26, 1975 began a campaign code-named Beloved President Ho Chi Minh Campaign in which they spearheaded their attacks at the last bastion of the U.S. and its puppet in Saigon. On April 30, 1975 at 9:25 a.m. the puppet administration and its army capitulated unconditionally and at 11:30 a.m. on the same day the banner of great justice of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam was fluttering throughout south Viet Nam including the Saigon City.

Saigon City, which bears the name of great President Ho Chi Minh, and south Viet Nam as a whole were completely liberated, the war of aggression waged by U.S.

imperialism in south Viet Nam was completely frustrated, and the Saigon puppet administration, an instrument of the U.S., was completely liquidated.

This great victory is not only of the Vietnamese people but also of the close militant solidarity of the three Indochinese peoples, of the sympathy and support extended by the Chinese people, the peoples of other socialist and non-aligned countries and friends in the five continents, including the progressive American people.

Dear comrades and friends,

Viet Nam and China are two dear fraternal neighbourly countries. The great friendship and close militant solidarity between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples, which have been long fostered by President Ho Chi Minh and Chairman Mao, now are blossoming and gaining fruits. This finds its expression in a famous verse composed by our boundlessly beloved Uncle Ho and kept in every Vietnamese's heart: "The profound relationship between Viet Nam and China is that of comrades and brothers."

In the course of struggle against U.S. aggression, the south Vietnamese people have always enjoyed the sympathy, the great, precious and effective support and assistance given by the Party and the Government of China and the Chinese people. The armed forces and people in south Viet Nam always bear in mind the statement by Chairman Mao Tsetung, the great leader of the Chinese people, a respected friend of the Vietnamese people: "The 700 million Chinese people provide a powerful backing for the Vietnamese people; the vast expanse of China's territory is their reliable rear area." Following

respected Chairman Mao's teachings, the fraternal Chinese people have actively given their support to the revolutionary struggle of the south Vietnamese people. The products given by the Chinese people to the south Vietnamese people have to undergo many bombings and shellings of the U.S. aggressors to reach our compatriots and fighters. They carry with them the feeling of the rear to the front, thus making a real contribution to the victories recorded by the south Vietnamese armed forces and people.

After the signing of the Paris agreement on Viet Nam, comrade state and Party leaders of China and the Chinese people once again reaffirmed their unswerving stand to give all-out support to the revolutionary struggle of the south Vietnamese people until the total victory is won. The non-refund economic aid given by China to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has made a contribution, together with the Vietnamese people, to healing the wounds of war and to the struggle in defence of the Paris agreement on Viet Nam.

Today we would like, with our warm feelings, to express our profound gratitude to the great, precious and effective support extended by respected Chairman Mao, the Chinese Communist Party, the Chinese Government and the fraternal Chinese people to the revolutionary cause of struggle of the south Vietnamese people. We will do our best to contribute to the strengthening of militant solidarity and the evergreen and everlasting great friendship between Viet Nam and China.

We wish to extend our warm congratulations on the complete victory of the fraternal Cambodian people, on

the new victory recorded by the fraternal Lao people. We would like to express, from our hearts, our gratitude to the Lao and Cambodian peoples for their sympathy and great support to the glorious cause of revolution of the south Vietnamese people, and who have been fighting shoulder to shoulder in the same trench against the U.S. imperialist aggressors. Loyal to the Joint Communique of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Countries, the south Vietnamese people pledge to make every effort in contribution to the consolidation and development of great friendship and close militant solidarity with the fraternal Lao and Cambodian peoples.

We are thoroughly aware that in our past struggle against U.S. aggression for national salvation as well as in our struggle for the strict implementation of the Paris agreement, the south Vietnamese people have always enjoyed the sympathy and the great and precious support and assistance extended by the governments and peoples of other socialist and non-aligned countries, by the progressive peoples including the progressive people in the U.S. On this occasion we would like to express our deep thanks for their sympathy and great and precious support and assistance.

Dear comrades and friends,

During the past few days, we the whole Vietnamese people have been living in a seething mood of victory for having put into practice our beloved President Ho Chi Minh's teaching: "To drive the U.S. out, and to overthrow the puppet." It was the complete liberation of south Viet Nam, thus bringing the revolutionary struggle in the south to a new stage.

We are firmly convinced that the south Vietnamese people, upholding their glorious revolutionary tradition, at the same time enjoying the unconditional assistance of the kith-and-kin northern compatriots, the sympathy and great support from the Indochinese peoples, the Chinese people, other peoples in the socialist and non-aligned countries and friends in the five continents, will quickly rebuild a peaceful, independent and democratic south Viet Nam of national reconciliation and concord, and will stabilize and improve their living conditions, then proceed to the peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

— May the great friendship and close militant solidarity between the peoples of Viet Nam and China be evergreen and everlasting.

— May I wish:

Great successes to the Chinese people!

Great successes to the Vietnamese people!

Great successes to the three Indochinese peoples!

SPEECH BY AMBASSADOR NGUYEN TRONG VINH
AT THE PEKING RALLY IN CELEBRATION OF THE
LIBERATION OF SAIGON AND THE WHOLE
OF SOUTH VIET NAM

(May 2, 1975)

Respected Comrade Wang Hung-wen, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China,

Respected Comrade Yeh Chien-ying, Vice-Chairman of the C.P.C. Central Committee,

Respected Comrade Teng Hsiao-ping, Vice-Chairman of the C.P.C. Central Committee and Vice-Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China,

Respected Comrade Wu Teh, Chairman of the Peking Municipal Revolutionary Committee,

Respected Prime Minister Samdech Penn Nouth,

Comrade Charge d'Affaires Tran Binh,

Their Excellencies Ambassadors, Charges d'Affaires a.i. and their wives,

Comrades and Friends,

First of all, on behalf of the Vietnamese people we sincerely thank all the Party and state leaders of China, Samdech Penn Nouth, ambassadors, charges d'affaires and their wives and all representatives of the people

from all walks of life and friends in Peking present here today at this meeting held by the Revolutionary Committee of Peking Municipality to welcome the great victory won by our Vietnamese people.

We feel greatly encouraged by and thankful for the praise and congratulations full of militant friendship and fraternal solidarity with the Vietnamese people that Comrade Yeh Chien-ying has just, on behalf of the Chinese people, expressed in his speech.

Comrades and friends,

Suffering from the exploitation and oppression under the colonial rule, the Vietnamese people, from generation after generation for nearly one hundred years, have been rising up to struggle persistently. Especially, since 1930 when our Party came into being and began taking up the leadership, the revolutionary struggle of the Vietnamese people has been carried out even more fiercely, which at times went underground, at times went publically, political struggle combined with armed struggle multifariously and versatilely.

In August 1945 with seething revolutionary spirit, the entire Vietnamese people rose up to seize power from the Japanese fascists and founded the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam (D.R.V.N.). Right after that the French colonialists mobilized aircraft, warships, staging an aggression for a come-back in an attempt to enslave our nation once again. In the spirit of "rather die than being enslaved," our entire nation with only rifles, spears and bamboo pikes stood up to carry out an arduous and protracted resistance war and ultimately won the brilliant victory of Dien Bien Phu which put an end to the old

French colonialism in our country. Succeeding the French imperialists, the U.S. imperialists jumped into South Viet Nam for an aggression, with all barbarous, cruel and perfidious schemes. Four different strategies were adopted in four successive terms of U.S. presidency. Enormous economic and military potentials were massively mobilized in realization of their aggressive schemes; a large quantity of weapons, and most up-to-date means of war were put into use and "greatest bombardment ever seen in the world" was carried out, in which even chemical weapons were used, killing tens of thousands of our countrymen, destroying everything regardless of hospitals, schools, factories, paddy fields and natural resources with greatest brutality in an attempt to push Viet Nam back to "the stone age." In fact, our country has been badly devastated, our people have shed lots of their blood, Viet Nam has endured great sacrifices. However, at last the will of the Vietnamese nation to wrest back independence and freedom has not been crushed, but on the contrary, it is the aggressive ambition of the ring-leader of the imperialists, the most powerful international gendarme that has been smashed, the neo-colonial war by the U.S. imperialists has been completely lost, their supremacy has been deeply buried. They have become weaker than ever. On April 30, 1975 when the last U.S. aggressor quitted, the Saigon puppet and traitorous regime collapsed, and the flag of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam was waving on top of the "presidential palace." The Vietnamese nation won the greatest, most wonderful, heroic and brilliant victory in her history of struggle against foreign aggression. A new page has

turned in the annals of the Vietnamese history. The Vietnamese nation has entered a new stage of brilliant development: the country has won complete independence, the nation has been completely liberated. The people of the whole country are really living in freedom and genuine peace, steadily advancing to build up a new well-off and happy life in the united country. On this most glorious and grand festive occasion in the history of the nation the Vietnamese people are overjoyed that they have materialized the lofty wishes in the "Last Testament" of President Ho Chi Minh — our great, beloved and venerated leader.

Our historical victory today is the result of the correct line put forward by the Party and President Ho Chi Minh, the firm and creative leadership and guidance in the course of revolutionary struggle. Grasping the persistent revolutionary spirit and basing on the correct analysis of the balance of forces between the enemy and the revolutionary forces, our Party has brought into full play the potential strength of a just cause, built up the unity of the entire people, the oneness of minds of the people in both north and south Viet Nam in a firm resolve to fight and to win by all suitable means. It has brought into full play the strength of the people's war, mobilizing the whole people in a common fight against the enemy, carrying out the combination of the armed, political and diplomatic struggles, using the tactic of "combining three categories of forces for one campaign." Military offensive was combined with people's uprisings along with "propagation and agitation campaign" among the enemy troops. Our Party has combined patriotism with proletarian internationalism; on the one hand the Party

has brought into full play the spirit of independence and keeping the initiative in its own hands, on the other hand it has unceasingly promoted the international unity on the basis of Marxism-Leninism. This correct leadership has also manifested itself in the spirit of resilience, determination and flexibility, in creating favourable opportunities and seizing the right opportunity for timely actions in order to win decisive victory. Under the leadership and education of our Party, the people and armed forces have developed the fine tradition of undauntedness and staunchness of our nation, fully grasped the spirit of "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom," and at the same time, they have been fully conscious of their international duty to the national independence movements and the revolutionary movements of the oppressed peoples all over the world. They have fought valiantly, fearing no sacrifices and hardships, overcoming all difficulties and advancing resolutely forward to new victories.

Today's great victory is also the victory of the superiority and vitality of socialism in north Viet Nam — the powerful revolutionary base of the whole country.

Our people's victory today has also stemmed from the three torrents of revolution of our time, the effective strength of the great international support and assistance for our just cause.

It is the strength of militant solidarity and mutual assistance among the three nations: Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia in their struggle against their common enemy for common victory. The great and historical victory of liberating Phnom Penh on April 17, 1975 won by the heroic Cambodian people and our complete liberation of

Saigon on the 30th of the same month are the most brilliant and concrete result of such a militant solidarity.

For their precious aid, we are very grateful to the fraternal countries Laos and Cambodia who have been fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Vietnamese people and they have shed their own blood for the closer relations among them. We pledge ourselves to keep such a solid unity forever.

Our victory is also a victory of the great, wholehearted and effective assistance in many fields of the fraternal Chinese Communist Party, Government and people.

In the glorious victory of Dien Bien Phu won by the Vietnamese people there was valuable contribution made by the Chinese Communist Party and people. In the struggle against the powerful enemy — the U.S. imperialists, the effects of the “great rear area,” that the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao reserve for the Vietnamese people, were seen even more clearly. All of our people can see clearly the support and assistance from the Chinese people ranging from parts of the roads or bridges to daily life necessities; in many aspects of daily life and fighting, every combatant of us could see obviously the support and assistance of the Chinese people. When the U.S. imperialists, meeting with bitter failure, wildly blockaded the north, the Chinese Party, Government and people were very active in helping us in transportation in order to meet the demand at the front line. I should say that whenever we met any difficulty, the Chinese people were with us, and in every victory of ours there was contribution made by the

Chinese people. This is a splendid manifestation of the spirit of proletarian internationalism, of the militant friendship sharing weal and woe together. Such fine relations our Party, Government and people will never forget. Once again, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Party, the Vietnamese Government and people, I would like to express our sincere thanks to respected Chairman Mao, the fraternal Chinese Communist Party, Government and people. In fulfilment of our beloved President Ho Chi Minh’s teachings and our Vietnam Workers’ Party’s policy, the Vietnamese people will, as always, forever unite with the Chinese people for the vital interests of revolution in our two countries. The victory of the Vietnamese people can’t be separated from the extremely important and essential assistance from other socialist, fraternal countries, without it we could not have smashed the enemy so early. The Vietnamese people forever keep in their minds these great assistance and contribution.

The support and encouragement rendered by the Communist and workers’ movements, by the countries struggling to win and safeguard independence, by the progressive movements of justice and peace-loving people the world over including the progressive American people, are an active impetus to and a valuable source of encouragement for the Vietnamese people in their just cause of struggle. The Vietnamese people would like to extend to our friends all over the world our sincere thanks.

Comrades and friends,

Once again I wish to express our sincere thanks to the Revolutionary Committee of the Peking Municipality

for holding this grand rally today to welcome the great historical victory of the Vietnamese people, and I wish to express our thanks to the Peking people for their warm sentiments toward their comrades-in-arms and their intimate brothers. I'm sincerely thankful to the Party and state leaders of China, to Samdech Penn Nouth, and to the foreign comrades and friends who have kindly come to share with us great and jubilant joy and happiness on the occasion of the historic and glorious victory won by our Vietnamese nation.

— Long live the great victory of the Vietnamese people!

— Long live the eternal, fraternal and militant unity between the peoples of Viet Nam and China!

A GREAT VICTORY OF WORLD SIGNIFICANCE

— Warmly congratulating the south Vietnamese armed forces and people on the liberation of Saigon

Renmin Ribao (People's Daily) editorial, May 1, 1975

Striking with the momentum of an avalanche and the force of a thunderbolt on April 30, 1975, the heroic South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces liberated Saigon at one stroke in their victorious advance to punish the south Viet Nam puppet clique severely for violating the Paris agreement. Collapsing instantly, the Saigon puppet regime is finished. The people greet liberation in high spirits. The liberation of Saigon signifies the great historic victory won by the Vietnamese people in their struggle for liberation and opens a new epoch in this struggle. This is a great event of world significance in the 1970s. With tremendous joy, the Chinese people extend their warmest congratulations and loftiest respects to the fraternal Vietnamese people.

The Vietnamese people are a heroic people, the Vietnamese nation is a great nation. To achieve independence and liberation, they carried on a protracted and indomitable struggle against imperialism for decades. For the last more than 10 years in particular, the south Vietnamese people, holding aloft President Ho Chi Minh's glorious banner of "**firm resolve to fight and to win**" and

under the leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, waged a heroic and tenacious struggle against U.S. imperialism and its lackeys and finally won a great victory in the war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation by bringing into full play dauntless heroism and unswerving revolutionary spirit, persisting in independence, initiative and self-reliance, and persevering in protracted people's war. The Vietnamese people's victory is an impressive victory song of people's war and a glorious example of the people of a small country resisting and defeating the aggression of a big imperialist power in the period after World War II. It has not only made a great contribution to the cause of solidarity against imperialism by the people of the third world and in the whole world, but also vigorously inspired and promoted the revolutionary struggle of all oppressed nations and oppressed peoples throughout the world. Its illustrious merits will be recorded in the glorious history of the world's national-liberation struggle. The new and rich experience of struggle it provides has great historical and international significance.

The south Vietnamese people's victory is a great victory for perseverance in protracted armed struggle. At different times, U.S. imperialism launched the most brutal "special warfare" and "local war" in south Viet Nam and carried out so-called "Vietnamization of the war," etc., in an attempt to force the south Vietnamese people to submit. In the face of the ferocious enemy, President Ho Chi Minh, the great leader of the Vietnamese people, called on the armed forces and people

of Viet Nam to **"fight perseveringly, harder and without let-up,"** and **"so long as there remains a single aggressor on our land, we still must fight on to sweep him away."** With the powerful backing of their compatriots in the north, the south Vietnamese people, who were mobilized on the most extensive scale, threw themselves into the just war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation, fighting shoulder to shoulder and united as one. No matter how ferocious the enemy nor how hard the circumstances, the south Vietnamese people were always fully confident of victory. Advancing indomitably wave upon wave, they fought persistently for more than ten years without cease. This is rare in the history of the world's national-liberation movement. Through perseverance in protracted people's war and gradual accumulation of strength in this way, the south Vietnamese people grew from small to big, from weak to strong, and won complete victory.

The great victory of the Vietnamese people has proved once again that what is decisive for victory or defeat in war is the people and their feelings, and not sophisticated weapons. No up-to-date weapons can save imperialism and the reactionaries. In its war of aggression in Viet Nam, U.S. imperialism spent hundreds of billions of dollars and used all kinds of sophisticated arms short of nuclear, including laser-guided bombs, toxic chemicals and depression bombs. Defying difficulty and sacrifice, the Vietnamese people fighting for justice brought into full play the spirit of lofty revolutionary heroism and fired bullets of hatred from every corner of south Viet Nam, with every person becoming a fighter sworn to wiping out the enemy. The U.S. ag-

gressors and their lackeys found their graves in every hilly area, forest and plain, enemy-controlled city and remote village, were swamped in the vast ocean of people's war and suffered complete defeat.

The south Vietnamese people not only dare to struggle, they are also good at waging struggles. They have persistently used revolutionary dual tactics against counter-revolutionary dual tactics and so remained invincible. Relying mainly on armed struggle, they struck hard at the enemy on the battlefield and carried out a principled struggle at the negotiation table. The Paris agreement signed in 1973 is an important victory for the Vietnamese people. But they know that the nature of imperialism and reactionaries will never change and that they will not lay down their butcher's knives and immediately become Buddhas even if there is an agreement. Therefore, holding fast to their arms and maintaining high vigilance, the Vietnamese people launched resolute and powerful counterattacks against the enemy's crimes of violating the Paris agreement, refusing national concord and wantonly massacring the people, and guided the struggle through to victory in line with its course of development.

The south Vietnamese people's victory is another proof that a just cause is invincible because it enjoys abundant support while an unjust cause has little support. The Vietnamese people's struggle won the sympathy and support of all justice-upholding countries in the world, and enjoyed the solidarity and assistance of the people throughout the world, including the American people. The people of the world rejoice at every victory won by the Vietnamese people, but show strong indignation

and condemnation at every step the United States took for aggression in Viet Nam. The victory of the Vietnamese people is a common victory for the Indochinese peoples in their united struggle and a common victory for the people of the third world and the whole world as well.

At present, the world is undergoing a profound and sharp change. The historical trend in which countries want independence, nations want liberation, and the people want revolution, is surging forward vigorously. The people of the world are awakening and growing in strength in the upheaval. The two superpowers pursuing their policies of aggression and expansion are running into snags everywhere in the world. Beset with difficulties at home and abroad and besieged ring upon ring by the world's people, they are declining steadily. One superpower is trying desperately to secure its position. The other superpower, which carries the signboard of "socialism," is also in an awkward predicament, but is burning with ambition and engaging in frantic expansion, fully revealing its ugly features of social-imperialism. The situation is becoming more and more favourable to the people of the world and unfavourable to the superpowers. The great victories of the Indochinese peoples have brought about a new situation. Indochina belongs to the Indochinese peoples and not to the reactionaries, still less to the imperialists. Nobody and no force can stop the victorious advance of the Vietnamese people and the other peoples of Indochina.

China and Viet Nam are neighbours as closely related as the lips and the teeth. The Chinese and Vietnamese peoples are brothers sharing joy and sorrow.

In the protracted revolutionary struggles, the people of our two countries have always sympathized with, supported and encouraged each other and have forged a profound militant friendship. Our two peoples are **“of the same family”** and **“both comrades and brothers.”** The struggle and victory of the Vietnamese people are powerful support and tremendous encouragement to the Chinese people. The friendship between us is long tested and unbreakable. In the future, we will, as always, firmly support the just struggle of the Vietnamese people. We profoundly believe that an independent, free, united and prosperous new Viet Nam will certainly come into being.

A GREAT VICTORY OF PEOPLE'S WAR

Commentary by Hsinhua Correspondent

With the determination to fight and win, the heroic south Vietnamese armed forces and people won a world-shaking great victory of people's war by defeating the traitorous Nguyen Van Thieu clique which sabotaged the Paris agreement, routing its million-strong puppet troops and liberating Saigon, the seat of the puppet regime.

The liberation of Saigon is an outcome of tremendous historical significance achieved by the south Vietnamese people in a protracted, just war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation. Following the liberation of Cambodia, it is another great event in Indochina and Asia that has drawn world attention. This victory has greatly raised the morale of the revolutionary people all over the world while dealing a mortal blow to the arrogance of imperialism and other forces of reaction. It has set a brilliant example for the anti-imperialist revolutionary cause of the people the world over.

The victory of the south Vietnamese armed forces and people fully demonstrates the inexhaustible might of people's war; it shows that a just war enjoying popular support is bound to triumph, while all reactionaries going against the people's interests are sure to meet their doom. It further proves the validity of the historical law that

a small nation can defeat a big and a weak nation can defeat a strong.

On the strength of U.S. support, the Thieu clique only two years ago controlled the major cities and main communication lines for a time and appeared very high and mighty with its million-strong troops armed with modern equipment. Nonetheless, under the heavy fire of the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces, it was utterly defeated and completely overthrown.

After the south Vietnamese armed forces and people launched their counter-offensives last March, the people in the vast liberated areas gave all-out support while millions of people in the enemy-controlled areas also rose in struggle so that the Saigon puppet troops were caught in a crossfire and collapsed very quickly. In one great sweep the People's Liberation Armed Forces took the main cities one after another — Hue, Da Nang, Qui Nhon, Nha Trang and Phan Thiet — and completely liberated more than 20 provinces to press on the enemy's lair, Saigon, and demolish at one blow that puppet regime which had wreaked havoc on the land and the people.

The great victory of the south Vietnamese armed forces and people in their war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation proves to the hilt this universal truth: building up a people's army and fighting people's war will result in complete victory over any formidable enemy.

At the start of the war, the enemy was in a superior position in military and financial strength and in equipment. But the people's armed forces, adhering to a correct line, grew both in size and strength in the course of fighting and gradually developed into a brave and strong army

of seasoned soldiers who know how to fight. In the decisive battles begun early last March, this army brought its great might into play and in one brief month wiped out altogether six divisions — half of the Saigon puppet regime's main forces — and liberated two-thirds of the country. This completely changed the situation in the south and created still more favourable conditions for liberating the whole of south Viet Nam.

The reason the People's Liberation Armed Forces were able to defeat the U.S.-Thieu clique and its troops equipped with the latest type of weapons is that they were fighting for the people's cause of liberation and they had a high political consciousness which enabled them to make sacrifices with unparalleled courage and gave them tremendous combat power. They overcame untold hardships in the protracted war and persisted to the end. When weapons were not available, they seized those of the enemy to arm themselves. With food grains scarce, they ate substitutes such as cassava and bananas. They fought without let-up in the dry season as well as in the rainy. Scorning and bent on overwhelming the enemy strategically, they pitted one against ten with daring and infinite courage — first defeating the enemy's "special war," then the "local war," the "offensives from five directions," the campaign "to search and annihilate" and finally the "Vietnamization of the war" — and forced the enemy into one retreat after another.

The people in south Viet Nam fondly call the People's Liberation Armed Forces "soldiers of the people," regarding them as their kith and kin and giving them every support. In the most difficult war years the south Vietnamese people scraped together whatever they could to

support their own army with money and what they called "rice for national salvation and against U.S. aggression." Young people flocked to join the army so that it grew steadily in strength. The people in the enemy-controlled areas, on their part, worked for the army as guides, stood sentry for it, supplied it with intelligence and risked their lives to give cover to the soldiers, whom they considered their own.

The People's Liberation Armed Forces not only dared to struggle but had also learned how to wage struggles. Applying the strategy and tactics of people's war, they made good use of their own superiority and wiped out the enemy's effectives by flexible manoeuvres. Learning warfare through warfare, they steadily gained strength, advancing from fighting guerrilla warfare to mobile warfare and positional warfare, from storming small enemy strongholds to liberating big cities.

The great victory of the south Vietnamese people eloquently shows that a consolidated revolutionary base is the fundamental guarantee for waging protracted armed struggle and defeating a powerful enemy. In south Viet Nam, the people set up vast consolidated liberated areas from the 17th Parallel in the north down to Point Camau, the southernmost tip of the country, from the Truong Son Ranges in the west to the coastal plains in the east. Day and night the revolutionary governments at all levels led the people in building and defending the liberated areas. Hoe in one hand and rifle in the other, the armed forces and people in the liberated areas went all-out to develop agricultural production while making rapid progress in industry, culture and public health at the same time. Many areas thus became more than self-

sufficient in grain. The consolidation of the liberated areas and the progress there gave a powerful impetus to the triumphant development of the war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation. These areas were the unfailing source of strength for the war of national liberation.

The U.S.-puppet clique, which all along considered the liberated areas as a thorn in its side, did everything it could to annex or eliminate them. Following the conclusion of the Paris agreement, it took leave of its senses in launching "pacification" operations and "nibbling" attacks against the liberated areas. Of the nearly 600,000 violations of the ceasefire committed by the Saigon puppet regime since January 1973, 400,000 were attacks on these areas. The heroic armed forces and people of the areas had a deep and implacable hatred for the enemy, fighting dauntlessly to smash the military operations it launched. They furiously battered the military bases, strongholds and forward posts which the enemy set up illegally in the liberated areas, repeatedly annihilated its forces and recovered lost territories.

In mid-March alone, the heroic armed forces and people in Tay Nguyen, the long established liberated area in central Viet Nam, meted out stern punishment by wiping out 120,000 of the Saigon puppet troops invading the liberated areas in violation of the Paris agreement. Thus, the liberated areas stood firm and strong against all enemy harassment and, as the situation developed, they were expanded and merged to encircle, ring upon ring, the big cities and military bases still in enemy hands. This prepared the way for the seizure of big

cities, the liberation of the whole of south Viet Nam and, eventually, the reunification of the fatherland.

An outstanding feature of south Viet Nam's war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation was the masses' vigorous struggle to wipe out enemy troops in co-ordination with the operations of the People's Liberation Armed Forces. The enemy was thus submerged in a vast sea of people's war and completely paralysed. Each hamlet, forest, brook or river in the vast liberated areas was a battlefield and burial ground for the U.S.-puppet troops. Grey-haired old men and young cowherds alike fought in the war. Traps for the enemy were set everywhere, and bamboo spikes, spears and even wild bees were weapons used against him. People living in the enemy-occupied areas also took up arms to keep the foe at bay in his rear. Mass rallies and demonstrations were frequently held in enemy-occupied cities by workers, students, religious believers and journalists fighting for democracy, freedom and the right to live and national concord. At the same time they strongly protested the sanguinary crimes committed by the U.S.-puppet clique in violating the Paris agreement, attacking the liberated areas and suppressing the people. Completely isolated and without popular support, the clique was doomed.

The just cause of the south Vietnamese people won popular sympathy and support from more and more countries and people. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has been recognized by an increasing number of countries, and its international prestige is ever higher. The people of all countries in the world have helped and supported in

every way the fighting south Vietnamese people. The great victory of the south Vietnamese people is a common victory of the Indochinese peoples who have been fighting hand in hand and supporting each other in accordance with the Joint Declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples.

As the people the world over celebrate this victory together with the Vietnamese people, they sincerely wish the heroic Vietnamese people still greater successes in their struggle to build an independent, free, united and prosperous new Viet Nam!

THE COURSE OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S VICTORIOUS WAR AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSION AND FOR NATIONAL SALVATION

Hsinhua Correspondent

Saigon's liberation, which brought tremendous joy to the whole world, marked the heroic Vietnamese people's great victory in their protracted struggle against U.S. imperialism and for national salvation. It was another important event of historic significance following the liberation of Phnom Penh.

The liberation of Saigon sealed the doom of U.S. imperialist aggressive policies in Viet Nam and gave the final touch to the inevitable conclusion of a glorious chapter in the annals of the Vietnamese people's national-liberation struggle.

This great victory was due to the Vietnamese people's persisting in a protracted and most arduous people's war. In the early 1940s they fought the aggression of Japanese imperialists. After World War II, they continued to fight a war of resistance against the French colonialists for eight years and finally drove them out. Immediately after that, the indomitable Vietnamese people fought another fourteen years of hard, bloody battles against the arrogant and seemingly powerful U.S. imperialists, and won the war.

The Vietnamese people's war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation was the most bitter and protracted war against aggression after World War II. To realize its ambition to dominate Indochina, U.S. imperialism deliberately scrapped the Geneva agreements of 1954 and, in 1961, launched "special warfare" in Viet Nam, vainly attempting to "pacify south Viet Nam" with 500,000 U.S.-equipped Saigon puppet troops under the direct command of 20,000-30,000 U.S. military advisers. When this "special warfare" plan was smashed by the Vietnamese people, the U.S. imperialists, not reconciled to their defeat, in 1965 "escalated" the aggressive war against Viet Nam by sending U.S. troops to take direct part in what they termed "local war." While attacking north Viet Nam from air and sea, U.S. imperialism sent more than half a million troops onto the battlefields of south Viet Nam. It deployed nearly a fifth of its air force and over a fourth of its navy, and used all kinds of sophisticated weapons except nuclear, in an insane attempt to put out the raging flames of revolution kindled by the Vietnamese people. Confronted with fierce U.S. imperialist aggression, the Vietnamese people rose up in arms, inflicted stunning defeat on the aggressors, and won one brilliant victory after another. Especially during the spring offensive of 1968 the people's armed forces of south Viet Nam wiped out more than a quarter million enemy troops, including 80,000 U.S. aggressors, downed or damaged over 3,000 enemy aircraft and destroyed over 6,000 armoured vehicles. These resplendent victories greatly heightened the morale of the Vietnamese people and deflated the arrogance of the U.S. aggressors and their Saigon stooges.

In the following year, U.S. imperialism began to "Vietnamize" the war, that is, to "pit the Vietnamese against each other" in an effort to avert its bitter defeat and shake off its overwhelming difficulties at home and abroad brought about by the Viet Nam war. But this served no better than the previous schemes of the U.S. imperialists to save themselves and their Saigon puppet troops. Continuous setbacks on the battlefields forced them to sign the Paris agreement in 1973.

But again the Viet Nam war shows that the signatures of the imperialists and their lackeys on agreements mean nothing. The people must use revolutionary dual tactics to deal with the counter-revolutionaries' dual tactics; they must be prepared especially to deal with armed counter-revolution by armed revolution. The Geneva and Paris agreements were torn to bits by U.S. imperialism and the Saigon puppet clique. So long as they had military forces or any strength at all left in Viet Nam, they felt restricted by the agreements and had to suffer the complete annihilation of their counter-revolutionary stock-in-trade, i.e., their reactionary armed forces. Before the ink on the Paris agreement was dry, the Nyugen Van Thieu clique was clamouring to occupy the liberated areas. From 1973 to 1975 the U.S.-supported Saigon puppet regime wilfully sabotaged this agreement, deploying a million troops and police to create over 600,000 instances of violating the ceasefire agreement. It dispatched scores of battalions or even two or three divisions at a time to launch "nibbling" operations or large-scale attacks against the liberated areas. To uphold the Paris agreement and guard the

fruits of victory, the south Vietnamese people dealt head-on counterblows in self-defence against the invading enemy, repeatedly wiping out the Saigon puppet troops' effectives. In the large spring offensive last March to punish the puppets, the south Vietnamese armed forces and civilians knocked out the enemy in withering strikes and hot pursuit, speedily liberating the greater part of the country south of the 17th Parallel. The ruling machine of the Saigon puppet regime quickly disintegrated with the massive destruction of its armed forces on the battlefield. The south Viet Nam people's armed forces, having gained military superiority, pressed forward victoriously on Saigon, the seat of the enemy, and took it, completely overthrowing the puppet regime.

The Viet Nam war also shows imperialism up as only a paper tiger, that a small nation can defeat a big one, a weak nation can defeat a strong one. U.S. imperialism deployed over half a million ground forces on Viet Nam battlefields, employed its Seventh Fleet, sent over 10,000 aircraft to drop over 7 million tons of bombs and sank 200,000 million dollars in the war. Still all this failed to cow the Vietnamese people. Holding aloft President Ho Chi Minh's banner of "**firm resolve to fight and to win,**" the people of Viet Nam built and developed a people's armed force in the course of struggle. They gained strength as they fought, capturing modern weapons from the enemy to arm themselves. Learning warfare through warfare, their courage and fighting skill mounted with each battle till they finally defeated U.S. imperialism and put an end to the Saigon puppet clique. The exploits of the heroic Vietnamese people have

added another glorious page to the chronicle of the people's anti-imperialist struggles throughout the world. Their victory is a tremendous contribution to the cause of liberation of the world's oppressed nations and peoples.

HEROIC STRUGGLE, GLORIOUS VICTORY

Members of the China-Viet Nam Friendship
People's Commune

Amidst jubilant celebrations for the liberation of Phnom Penh, the great and heartening news arrived from south Viet Nam that Saigon and south Viet Nam, long ravaged by the U.S. aggressors and the puppet clique of Saigon, had been completely liberated. Like the people of the rest of China, the members of the China-Viet Nam Friendship People's Commune are overjoyed and greatly inspired. With the deep feelings of comrades-in-arms, we extend our warm congratulations and most respectful salute to the fraternal Vietnamese people.

U.S. imperialism sent hundreds of thousands of aggressor troops into south Viet Nam and instigated the puppet clique there to carry out sanguinary suppression of the people. But the heroic people of south Viet Nam were not cowed. Holding aloft the glorious banner of "firm resolve to fight and to win" of President Ho Chi Minh, and led by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government, they waged an extremely arduous struggle. U.S. imperialism used all kinds of modern lethal weapons, except nuclear, and resorted to every manner of intrigue, but none of these saved it from defeat but rather stif-

fened the determination of the south Vietnamese army and civilians to annihilate the enemy and reunify their fatherland. With the firm and powerful support of their compatriots in the north and of the world's people, they fought as one with fearless revolutionary drive and won signal victories one after another in the past dozen years of hard fighting. After 1973 when the Saigon puppet clique violated the Paris agreement of January that year, they counterattacked in self-defence, punished it for its crimes and won brilliant victories. Now they have completely liberated Saigon and the whole of south Viet Nam and written a new page in the history of the national-liberation struggle in Viet Nam. The Vietnamese people's war of resistance against U.S. imperialism and for national salvation sings the praises of protracted people's war. The great victory of the Vietnamese people is a brilliant example of a small country defeating a big one, proving once again the incontrovertible truth that **"The people of a small country can certainly defeat aggression by a big country, if only they dare to rise in struggle, dare to take up arms and grasp in their own hands the destiny of their country."**

"The profound relationship between Viet Nam and China is that of comrades and brothers." China and Viet Nam are friendly neighbours linked by mountains and rivers, and the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples have forged an indestructible militant friendship in the struggle against imperialism. The Chinese people regard every victory of the Vietnamese people as their own victory. The friendship between the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples is like the water of the Yangtze River and the Red River, whose origins are remote and whose

flow is continuous. Comrade Le Duan, Premier Pham Van Dong, President Nguyen Huu Tho and other Vietnamese comrades-in-arms never failed to visit our commune on their trips to China. They said it was like coming home. At each visit the Vietnamese comrades-in-arms brought news of victory on the battle front, which was the most precious and inspiring of gifts. The complete liberation of Saigon and south Viet Nam brings to fruition the hope of both the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples. It gives us great joy. Inspired by the Vietnamese people's example, we will go all out, aim high and win still greater harvests, and continue to support the Vietnamese people's great cause of unifying their fatherland and building up their country. We sincerely wish the Vietnamese people new and greater victories in future struggles. May the militant friendship between the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples, like the "friendship pines" planted by comrades-in-arms of our two countries, take deep root, flourish and remain ever green!

GREAT VICTORY, SHINING EXAMPLE

Ching Wen

The heroic army and people of south Viet Nam, pressing triumphantly on Saigon in the historic "Ho Chi Minh campaign," liberated the city and toppled the Saigon puppet regime at one sweep. The whole of south Viet Nam was thus restored to the people. This great victory of world significance spelled the complete failure of the U.S. imperialist policy of intervention and aggression in Viet Nam and the great historic victory of the Vietnamese people in their struggle for liberation. The national-liberation movement of Viet Nam has passed another important milestone, ushering in a new epoch in the Vietnamese revolution.

The Vietnamese people traversed a long, tortuous and difficult path to score this hard-won victory. They fought valiantly for eight years after World War II, forcing the French colonialists to sign the Geneva agreements recognizing the independence, sovereignty, unification and territorial integrity of Viet Nam. But the ink was scarcely dry on the agreements when U.S. imperialism started direct intervention and launched aggression in Viet Nam in a vain attempt to divide the country permanently and make the southern part its colony and military base. The Vietnamese people were once again forced to take up arms and, after great sacri-

lices in more than ten years of sanguinary battles, compelled the miserably defeated U.S. imperialists and servile Saigon regime to sign the Paris agreement which, however, was soon trampled underfoot. For more than two years the Saigon puppet regime, aided and abetted by the United States, wilfully violated the agreement by constantly attacking the liberated areas and frenziedly suppressing and massacring the people in south Viet Nam. The United States also refused to end its military involvement and intervention there. Driven into an intolerable situation, the south Vietnamese people rose to strike back resolutely at the Saigon puppet regime for its crimes. Particularly noteworthy was the victorious military advance in the last two months of the war, which finally smashed the puppet regime and gained the great victory of liberating all of south Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese people stood their ground in more than ten years of severe trials and tribulations. Confronted with a most ferocious enemy, their war was the longest and fiercest war against aggression since World War II. U.S. imperialism, in its mad attempt to subdue the Vietnamese people, threw in 200,000 million dollars, a considerable part of its land, sea and air forces, including half a million U.S. troops and a million puppet soldiers and foreign mercenaries. It used all types of modern weapons and other war equipment short of nuclear weapons, applied various military strategies and tactics, and dropped far more bombs than in any other war in modern history. Resorting to some of the most cruel and nefarious methods of war in south Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists tried "toxic chemicals" and "carpet bombing," "strategic hamlets" and "pacification pro-

grammes," "helicopter warfare" and "amphibious-vehicle warfare," "forcing peace by bombing" and "inducing peace by air-raid suspension." None of these, however, modified in the least the Vietnamese people's **"firm resolve to fight and to win."** Time and again the United States revised its timetable of winning the war in Viet Nam as each date proved illusory. The "special warfare," with the United States furnishing the money, weapons and advisers and the Saigon underlings supplying the men, ended in complete bankruptcy in the face of the indomitable Vietnamese people. The "local war" ended up the same despite the direct participation of hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops. The "escalation" of war against north Viet Nam collapsed too, as did the "Vietnamization of the war" aimed at pitting the Vietnamese people against each other. This test of strength on the soil of Viet Nam eventually ended in the total defeat of U.S. imperialism and its lackeys.

U.S. imperialism used south Viet Nam as a "testing ground" for suppressing national-liberation wars. A U.S. government official at one point claimed that "the war in Viet Nam would prove that communist wars for national liberation could be thwarted." However, it was precisely on this "testing ground" that through sustained revolutionary armed struggle the Vietnamese people defeated the armed aggression and suppression by U.S. imperialism and its stooges. This is a most remarkable accomplishment in the annals of the world's national-liberation wars and sets a brilliant example to the world's peoples in their revolutionary struggles against imperialism.

The Vietnamese people won this great victory because they persevered in a true, protracted people's war as they held aloft the splendid banner of resisting U.S. imperialism and saving their country. In this magnificent people's war, everybody was a fighter, every household a stronghold and every hamlet a battleground, drowning the enemy in a sea of resistance. In the course of the war, the Vietnamese people founded and strengthened a new people's army, set up and expanded strong revolutionary bases, armed themselves with weapons seized from the enemy, advanced from guerrilla warfare to mobile and positional warfare and from using the countryside to encircle the cities to capturing the cities. By creatively applying the strategy and tactics of people's war, they have brought its potentialities into full play and raised the art of people's war to a new level. In close co-ordination with the armed struggle, they launched powerful political struggles by uniting patriotic people of all strata in town and country to form a second front against the reactionary rule and criminal policies of U.S. imperialism and its lackeys. In this way the Vietnamese people continuously expanded and strengthened their ranks, dealt increasingly heavy blows at the enemy, grew stronger as they fought and carried the struggle from victory to victory until the enemy was finally defeated.

The Vietnamese people's struggle and their victory have great international significance. The course of their struggle has once again clearly demonstrated to the world's people that in the face of armed aggression and suppression by imperialism and reaction, national-liberation wars are inevitable. Since imperialism is given

to using counter-revolutionary wars as a means of enforcing its policy of oppressing and enslaving the peoples of various countries, the victimized nations and peoples can only resort to revolutionary wars to resist aggression and oppression and win their independence and liberation. Even small and weak countries can grow to be strong ones, and eventually defeat any enemy no matter how big and powerful it may appear, so long as they adhere to the correct line of mobilizing the masses, dare to wage protracted people's war and do a good job of it. The people of the world have learned once again from the struggle of the Vietnamese people that the imperialists and all reactionaries will never withdraw from the arena of history voluntarily. They may, in time of defeat, temporize by acceding to negotiations and signing agreements. But they may also tear up the agreements at any time. Revolutionary peoples should know how to apply revolutionary dual tactics to oppose their counter-revolutionary dual tactics, maintain high revolutionary vigilance and wage blow-for-blow struggle against them till their utter defeat.

The victory of the Vietnamese people is a tremendous encouragement to the oppressed nations and peoples in their struggle. It is bound to exert far-reaching influence on the world people's struggle against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism. The victory of the Vietnamese people has turned a brand-new page in the annals of their revolutionary struggle. We are confident that an independent, free, unified and prosperous new Viet Nam will emerge.