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ENTIRE PARTY, ALL THE PEOPLE, AND WHOLE HEROIC ARMY ADVANCE

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For nearly half a century now, among the Vietnamese generations fighting under the banner of beloved President Ho Chi Minh, everyone has felt more and more proud of being his comrade and disciple. In success as well as in difficulty, President Ho always clearly understood his thoughts. He diligently and gently advised and encouraged us on the road of revolutionary activity. Everyone could feel a simple and rare natural closeness to him, whether in Hanoi, the heart of the Fatherland, the extremities of Ca Mau, or the most remote borders.

But does this mean that everyone of us has all along realized that all is beautiful, heroic, and great in the soul and the work of our brilliant leader? Have we not in the past month gained a more profound understanding of the great deeds President Ho performed and of his contributions as infinite as the broad seas and high skies. Each individual, sector, and group need only look to clearly see those points. But we cannot see all of the traces and areas fully and deeply. It takes the insight, vision, and wisdom of the biggest, most clear-sighted, and most representative collectives of our people, our fatherland, and our era to make a correct and comprehensive appraisal of President Ho Chi Minh.

Expressing the most sincere thought of our party and nation, the Party Central Committee stressed:

"A great patriot, a loyal disciple of Karl Marx and V. I. Lenin, Comrade Ho Chi Minh upheld the spirit of uncompromising struggle against imperialism. He dedicated all of his life to the liberation of the working class, the nation, and mankind, to independence and freedom, and to socialism and communism. He upheld a spirit of independence and sovereignty, creatively applied Marxism-Leninism to the concrete conditions of our country, and closely combined genuine patriotism with proletarian internationalism. He embodied the combination of the finest traditions of our Vietnamese nation with the radical revolutionary ideology of our time -- Marxism-Leninism. (1) Appeal by Party Central Committee on 3 September 1969.

Our entire party, people and army will forever bear in mind the services rendered by President Ho Chi Minh as eulogized by the Central Committee of the party:

"President Ho Chi Minh was the founder, leader, and educator of our party; the builder of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the national united front; the beloved father of the Vietnamese people's armed forces. He was the very soul, the shining banner that led our entire party, our entire people, our entire army, to unite as one man and struggle gallantly, thus writing the most glorious pages in the history of our fatherland.

Our nation, our people, and our land gave birth to President Ho Chi Minh, the great national hero, and he, in turn, has covered them with glory.

President Ho Chi Minh's great life is an ever-shining example of staunch revolutionary courage, the spirit of independence and freedom, deep love for the people, impartiality, and simplicity. (2) Funeral Oration of the Party Central Committee read during President Ho's Funeral.

Our National Assembly, the collective representative of all of the people who are the masters of the country, clearly stated:

"President Ho Chi Minh was a revolutionary leader endowed with these qualities: deep insight into revolutionary theory, clear-sightedness, skill in organizing the mobilizing the masses, exemplariness in revolutionary virtues. He was not only a staunch, clear-sighted, loyal, and cordial comrade, but also a generous and benignant father and uncle. He was a man of great genius, great humanism, and great courage. (3) Truong Chinh's speech at the D.R.V.N. National Assembly, September 23, 1969.

Together with the common feelings and thoughts of our entire party, people, and army, the feelings and thoughts of each of us, in each social stratum and each branch, are extremely lively and profound. Grief for and memory of him is felt and displayed in many different ways by workers, peasants, soldiers, intellectuals, the elderly, his friends among children and the youth, the people of the delta, the ethnic minorities in the mountains, his compatriots on the islands, and overseas Vietnamese. The unprecedented grief felt by the heart of Vietnam has been clearly demonstrated by everyone. This has been done through thousands of drawings and the simple and spontaneous words of the rural elderly and the members of the vanguard youth; through the poems, music, reports, photos, films, paintings, and status of creative artists; and through letters written in blood or soaked in tears by the strong soldiers who are bravely charging ahead on every front of the war and production.

Constantly sharing the sentiments and thoughts of the entire nation, our countrymen in the south have looked upon President Ho Chi Minh as the "loftiest symbol of our people's determination to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors" and the most concentrated symbol of the blood-sealed love of the north, the big rear area, which has always wholeheartedly supported the south now on the fighting front against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

(4) Joint appeal of the Central Committee of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, the Central Committee of the Vietnam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the R.S.V.N. and the Advisory Council, September 9, 1969.

Devoting all his life to the revolution, President Ho Chi Minh had built, strengthened, and unceasingly developed the solidarity and oneness of mind of our party and our people have shown a very deep solidarity and oneness of mind full of sacred significance. This solidarity and oneness of mind has further brought out the truth that "Vietnam is one country, the Vietnamese are one nation."

In the presence of President Ho Chi Minh's spirit, the entire progressive mankind shared our grief and sorrow. Never before have we seen such deep and spontaneous sympathy from tens of millions of comrades and thousands of millions of brothers and friends in all continents. Together with us, the whole world, which actively struggles for peace, national independence, democracy, and socialism, esteem and praise President Ho Chi Minh in an extremely sincere manner.

The Soviet communists and people regard President Ho Chi Minh as "the great son of the Vietnamese people, the eminent activist of the international communist movement and the national liberation movement, and the great friend of the Soviet Union." "Comrade Ho Chi Minh has dedicated all his wonderful life and all his talents as a revolutionary fighter to the struggle for the bright future of his people, and for the victory of Marxism-Leninism."

(5) Message of condolence from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

The Chinese communists and people consider him as "an outstanding proletarian revolutionary, the great leader of the Vietnamese people, the closest comrade-in-arms of the Chinese people." "He applied the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism to the concrete practice of the Vietnamese revolution. He dedicated his whole life to the national liberation struggle of Vietnam and the cause of communism." (6) Messages of condolence from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

The communists and peoples of all other countries in the socialist camp in Asia, Europe, and the Americas regard President Ho Chi Minh not only as the great leader and the most outstanding son of the Vietnamese working class, but also as a personal friend of the people in all countries and "a veteran revolutionary fighter who remained true to proletarian internationalism and made a great contribution to the unity and cohesion of the socialist camp and the strengthening and development of the international communist movement."

(7) Message of condolence from the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and the Supreme People's Assembly of the D.P.R.K. "He was a fighter who has struggled indomitably for the cause of socialism and for the right of all the oppressed peoples to be master of their own destiny, and a shining example of the noblest revolutionary and human virtues." (8) Message of con-

dolence from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and the Cuban Revolutionary Government); "the embodiment of the close relations between the struggle of the world working class and that of the oppressed nations." (9) (Message of condolence of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the Council of Ministers and People's Chamber of the GDR, and the National Council of the National Front of Democratic Germany).

In the international communist movement as a whole, those who are fighting under the glorious banner of Marxism-Leninism in all continents have praised President Ho Chi Minh's image as "a hero," "a great leader," "a model communist," "an outstanding teacher," a shining example, a glorious banner, a battle cry, etc. of the world revolutionary movement. The French Communist Party, in the founding of which he had taken part, said, "He symbolizes the victorious struggle of the oppressed peoples against imperialism." (10) (Statement of the Political Bureau of the French Communist Party). On behalf of the Japanese communists, Comrade Sanzo Nosaka, an old, close comrade-in-arms of President Ho Chi Minh, stressed: "All his life Comrade Ho Chi Minh adhered to the path shown by the theories of liberation and Marxism-Leninism in the dauntless struggle of the people till final victory.... He left behind immortal services in the history of the liberation struggle of the Vietnamese people as well as of the oppressed nations and people in Asia and the rest of the world." (11) (Last tribute by Sanzo Nosaka, chairman of the Central Committee of the Japanese Communist Party.)

Closely combining President Ho Chi Minh's life and works with the long-standing tradition and glorious revolutionary history of the Vietnamese nation, the Italian communists came to the conclusion: "Comrade Ho Chi Minh is the heroic leader of a heroic people, who has become the symbol of the highest values of contemporary mankind... Comrade Ho Chi Minh set an example of a communist leader and a great revolutionary embodying the entire nation, an example for the whole progressive mankind, which nobody nor anything could blur. (12) (Message of condolence from the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party).

Struggling persistently with us against the common enemy, the U.S. imperialists, living half the globe from us and in quite different conditions, the American communists deeply sympathize. The feelings and thoughts of our American communist comrades are the feelings and thoughts of the proletariat and laboring people in the United States. The whole mankind clearly realizes these feelings and thoughts through the statement of Comrade Gus Hall, secretary general of the U.S. Communist Party:

"Comrade Ho Chi Minh was a great world Marxist-Leninist leader and thinker....He possessed the greatness of thought, the clearness of vision and foresight, that come only from a deep insight into the forces that are propelling this most explosive shift in human affairs in all times of history..."

"Comrade Ho Chi Minh was a world leader at the most revolutionary turning point in man's history."

"Comrade Ho Chi Minh was a leader in the field of theory and ideology. He was a political leader, but he was also a brilliant military leader."

"He gathered in his being the great qualities of the Vietnamese people."

"Above all Ho Chi Minh was a Marxist-Leninist working class leader."  
(13) (Statement by Gus Hall, General Secretary of the American Communist Party.)

It is precisely because the soul and the work of President Ho Chi Minh clearly manifested the close relation between the movements and the process of revolution that have created the basic content of our time, that all revolutionary and progressive forces in the world consider him as their vanguard fighter. Everywhere, there is the boundless admiration, love, and respect of all persons and organizations actively struggling for independence and freedom of the nations for the leader of genius and the great teacher of the Vietnamese people.

The words of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of the Kingdom of Cambodia, have deeply moved our entire people: "President Ho Chi Minh has entered the history of the Indochinese peoples and all peoples in Asia, Africa, and Latin America as a symbol of patriotic struggle for national independence."

"He will remain forever the brilliant symbol of patriotism and the venerated and immortal hero of all the anti-imperialist peoples and all the nations cherishing independence, justice, and dignity." (14) (Condoling message and impressions written down in the mourner's book by Sihanouk on the death of President Ho Chi Minh)

Expressing the genuine voice of the Laotian people, Prince Souphanouvong, the esteemed leader of the Laotian Patriotic Front, pointed out: President Ho Chi Minh "is a staunch and outstanding fighter of the world revolutionary movement and the national liberation movement in Asia, Africa, and Latin America; the great and beloved leader of the Vietnamese people; the beloved comrade-in-arms of the Laotian People; the great patriot who has all his life devotedly served the revolution, the people, and the fatherland." (15) (Statement of September 15, 1969 by Prince Souphanouvong)

In Asia as well as in Africa, in both the East and the West, the authentic representatives of all nationalist peoples and forces against the policy of aggression and domination of the U.S.-led imperialists have sincerely praised President Ho Chi Minh as "the man who had initiated the struggle of the peoples of the countries in the third world for self-liberation from the oppressive yoke of colonialism and imperialism", "as the light illuminating the path for all oppressed peoples to freedom and independence;" "as a source

of inspiration for all peoples cherishing freedom in the world;" "a symbol of the staunch struggle of all oppressed peoples in the world against colonialism and imperialism;" "and as a splendid example for all Asian and African peoples in their noble struggle against imperialism, old and new colonialism," etc.

Assembling people of like groups, sectors, and political inclination in many different countries into common organizations, the World Peace Council, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the Womens International Democratic Federation, etc. have also highlighted the splendid contributions of President Ho Chi Minh to the movements for peace of the world, for social progress and a bright future for mankind.

The words and attitude of the world's people in parting from President Ho Chi Minh have shown clearly that the unanimity of feelings and thoughts before his memory have a deep source and wide scope. In every part of our planet, from socialist countries to nationalist countries, from the countries rising up for independence and freedom to capitalist countries, including the United States -- where the sound feelings and thoughts of man are daily smothered and poisoned by the die-hard imperialists -- innumerable manifestations of boundless grief and love for the President have been recorded. Broad masses of workers, peasants, intellectuals, men and women, old and young people, colored and white people, religious and non-religious people, feel they have come closer together, living in greater harmony with one another than they ever did, before the beloved image of the fighter who had dedicated all his life to the revolution. The stories told by veteran communist fighters who had taken part in the Russian October Revolution, in the struggle for the founding of the French Communist Party and in the Canton commune movement in China, the tears of children and pioneers calling Uncle Ho in different tongues, the greeting hand of the invalid Italian student who came to Paris in a wheel chair pushed by a friend, the shouts, Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh, that resound across the United States -- all these gestures are very simple, but very moving.

Correctly reflecting the feelings and thoughts of the people, the progressive press in all countries have manifested the ever known profound unity of the forces struggling for peace, national independence, democracy, and socialism in the world. In the face of that unity, even the mouthpieces of those forces running counter to the mainstream of history could not hide the truth of Ho Chi Minh's lofty works.

With regret for President Ho Chi Minh, the whole progressive mankind also sees clearly the immortal vitality of the image he left in their hearts and of the legacy he left in the social life. Reality has made clearer and clearer significance of the correct affirmations by the communists: President Ho Chi Minh belongs to the special class of men whose death breeds life and constitutes an immortal source of inspiration. (8) "In him there is something that cannot die and will never die. It is being absorbed and will be absorbed more and more by the young generations, by all those who believe in man and in

President Ho Chi Minh's revolutionary spirit is as clear as crystal. His revolutionary life is flawless. The sincere and correct appraisals of his image and his works go straight and deep into our hearts as beautiful verses and weave into a marvelously inspiring epic. The more we are proud of going ahead on the path of glorious victory he has blazed, the more clearly we realize the necessity to make more persistent and greater efforts. The duty of our entire party and people, as the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee pointed out in its instruction on the launching of a nationwide drive to study and act upon President Ho's testament, is "to unite closely around the Central Committee of the party; be resolved to act upon President Ho Chi Minh's testament, persist in and promote the resistance war against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, to liberate the south, defend the north, and proceed toward the reunification of the country; endeavour in the emulation movement to step up the building of socialism in the north; and contribute to the revolutionary cause of the working class and people the world over. (16) (Instruction of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee on the period of political activity called "Studying and Complying With the Will of President Ho.")

In this spirit, the Political Bureau has decided to launch a political drive called "The entire party, all of the people, and entire army study and act upon President Ho Chi Minh's testament."

This political drive includes two main parts:

To study and thoroughly grasp the content of President Ho's testament, and the last tribute and the appeal of the party Central Committee.

On that basis, implement the slogan calling for the transformation of grief into revolutionary action, intensify emulation patriotic movements, and carry out all immediate missions well, especially those central efforts designed to complete all objectives handed down well.

President Ho's will was his final lesson. It has a far-reaching significance and was highly principled. He left to us very important recommendations on the fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, on economic construction and cultural development, on the party and the people, on the problem of educating the cadres and party members in revolutionary virtues as well as the problem of fostering the future revolutionary generations, and on the solidarity and unity of mind of the international communist movement. He left his "boundless love to the whole people, the whole party, the whole army, to my nephews and nieces, the youth and children." (17) Concluding his testament, he expressed his ultimate wish that our entire party and people, closely joining their efforts, will build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, and prosperous Vietnam, and make a worthy contribution to the world revolution." (17) (President Ho's Will)

The appeal and last tribute of the party Central Committee are historic documents, illuminating for us the great contributions of President

Ho Chi Minh and the direction for struggle to continue and gloriously accomplish his noble cause.

In the past few weeks, many comrades, people and units in both zones of the country have endeavoured to turn grief and sorrow into revolutionary deeds and recorded promising achievements.

This political drive will surely further intensify the common efforts of our entire party, people, and army on the basis of a firm unanimity of views and clear direction for actions.

We will surely attain new productivity, constantly growing effectiveness, new results, and continuous improvement in our daily efforts to fulfill immediate goals. We will certainly advance rapidly and forcefully in the Vietnam revolution with a spirit of fiery heroism. We will record brilliant contributions and accomplishments to salute the 40th anniversary of the founding of the party and create a new revolutionary atmosphere that is truly worthy of 1970, a year with a bright future.

In conclusion, the paper said: Holding high the invincible banner of President Ho Chi Minh, the leader of genius and the great teacher who will live forever in our hearts, let our entire party, entire army, and all of the people valiantly move forward!

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