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CHIEN BINH ON PARTY UNITY, BLOC SUPPORT 69

A Chien Binh article--the fourth in a series published in QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, broadcast by Hanoi radio on 21 October--ridicules U.S. Vietnam policy, claiming that since the death of Ho Chi Minh the Nixon Administration has "been waiting for confusion, embarrassment, or discord in their adversary's camp." Chien Binh says that since no more means were available, "the President relied on a "haphazard hope" that the Vietnamese people would be discouraged and unwilling to "advance their anti-U.S. national salvation struggle." He distorts the President's response to a question at his 26 September press conference on possible consequences of the change of leadership in the DRV when he says that the President "gleefully stated: while the United States is pursuing its policy, changes may, I think, take place on the other side. We may expect some changes in its policy because there will be changes in its leadership"; the President had noted that there were some prospects for a possible change, saying he was only suggesting that since there was new leadership, a re-evaluation of policy could perhaps be expected. Chien Binh also cites the 22 September U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT as speculating that there may be discord in Hanoi after Ho's death since no other leader could bring to bear as much international prestige as Ho to achieve internal unity and win over support of the Soviet Union and China.

Chien Binh says that the hopes of the Nixon Administration have "been nipped in the bud" and refutes speculation about VWP disunity, asserting that "solidarity and unanimity" are Vietnamese traditions and that the party's line is correct and its organization "stable and strong." He claims that under party leadership the "solidarity and unanimity of the people, party, and armed forces is strengthening." Chien Binh contends that the "strength of solidarity and unanimity of our party and people" has disappointed the United States, and he cites Western sources suggesting that North Vietnam is not divided.

Chien Binh recalls the oath read by Le Duan at the 9 September memorial service for Ho calling for the "preserving of party solidarity and unanimity." He also recalls Truong Chinh's speech at the National Assembly meeting on 23 September, when Chinh declared that "our enemy thinks that after President Ho's passing away, we will be confused and divided or will go astray from his revolutionary line, but they are grossly mistaken." Chinh claimed that the party, armed forces, and people "will further strengthen their solidarity, develop their collective spirit and spirit of socialist cooperation, and enthusiastically advance toward achieving every task entrusted by the party and the state."