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II. PHAM VAN DONG ELABORATES ON
REVOLUTIONARY "SELF RELIANCE"
IN INTERVIEW WITH EGYPTIAN EDITOR

(Hanoi VNA in English to VNA Moscow, 1532 GMT,
10 December 1970)

[Premier Pham Van Dong answers interview (sic) by Miss
Laipel Gebal, Diplomatic Editor of the Al Gomhouria, (sic)
Cairo, U.S.R.-- VNA Heading]

Question 1: The war against U.S. imperialism and its lackeys in Viet Nam has lasted about 10 years now. Would you be so kind (as--Ed) to give us the most important experiences you have achieved during that period from the strategic, political and diplomatic point of view?

Answer: As has been pointed out by President Ho Chi Minh, the greatest experience of the Vietnamese people in the struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors is: To achieve national unity, to fight with determination for victory without fearing hardships and sacrifices, to attack the enemy unremittingly and to wage the ever victorious people's war.

These are highly important points of strategic significance in our patriotic war against the U.S. imperialists and their agents, a war conducted under the leadership of a political party armed with Marxism-Leninism and using all possibilities and forms of struggle--military, political and, at a later stage, diplomatic--with a view to winning victory.

In this struggle, we Vietnamese have carried out a correct line in international relations, uniting with the peoples of the socialist countries, of Asian, African and Latin American countries, and with the peace-and justice-loving people in the world including the progressive American people. Our struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their agents is thus part and parcel of the revolutionary cause of the world's peoples in the present times, an era when imperialism is weakening and dying out, an era of national liberation and of triumph for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

Question 2: In the recent international developments of powers, what is Your Excellency's opinion in what is called "policy of self-reliance?"

Answer: I think that my answer to your first question has made clear the viewpoint of self-reliance which is essential to the carrying out of a strategy of people's war, an arduous, protracted and certainly victorious one.

Self-reliance means reliance mainly on one's own forces. In face of the invasion by the U.S. aggressors, it is up to the people to stand up to a man and to drive them out through a valiant fight.

At the same time, self-reliance means independent thinking in working out a strategy and a tactic for a victorious fight, the line of international relations, in foreign policy, in the revolutionary cause as a whole.

Self-reliance so conceived does not mean in any way self-isolation or a departure from the general trend of the times. Instead, it requires the utmost efforts to secure sympathy, support and assistance in all fields from the whole progressive mankind, both for the benefit of one's own nation, and in the common interests of the world's people.

Only self-reliance and independent thinking will make it possible to win the above-mentioned sympathy, support and assistance to the full and in the surest way.

Question 3: A/ What is the strategic significance of opening a new imperialistic war front in Cambodia?

B/ How it will mainly affect the situation in Viet Nam?

Answer: The Nixon administration embarked on a brazen invasion of Cambodia, and expanded the war to the whole Indochina in an attempt to avert a defeat of the "Vietnamization" plan in South Viet Nam and also to do away with the independence, peace and neutrality of Cambodia thus brought under U.S. way. But this adventurous criminal act has only served to make its position still more critical. Not only has it failed to avert defeat in the "Vietnamization" plan in South Viet Nam, it has also got bogged down and is suffering heavy defeats in Cambodia. The South Vietnamese people are pushing their victorious offensives on all battle-fields, in a firm resolve to utterly foil the "Vietnamization" plan. The peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, carrying out their undertakings written into the joint declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, are strengthening their militant solidarity, and enhancing their mutual support for the sake of victory over the common enemy.

Nor do the intensified air attacks launched recently by the Nixon administration against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam have any other purpose than to retrieve the failure of the "Vietnamization" plan in South Viet Nam. This highly dangerous act of aggression has further evidenced the weak and losing position of the U.S. imperialists and will unavoidably bring upon them still heavier defeats.

Question 4: In our country now, as well as in your country, we face the same big U.S. imperialistic power and its lackey, Israel. We also face many difficulties in our region, "the Middle-East". But our new President Awar El Sadat has assured recently our determination to continue the late President Nasser's strict policy against imperialism; "No peaceful solution with any conditions imposed." Would you evaluate the situation in the Middle East from your own Vietnamese experienced point of view?

Answer: The peoples of Viet Nam and of the Arab countries are fighting against a common enemy--the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys. The U.S. imperialists have used their Israeli henchmen as an instrument to aggress the Arab countries and to create tension in the Middle East.

As a nation standing on the frontline of the fight against the U.S. imperialist aggressors, we fully support the just struggle waged by the people of the United Arab Republic under the leadership of President Nasser and, now, of President Anwar El Sadat. We fully support the just struggle of the Arab people of Palestine, of all Arab countries against the imperialists and their lackeys, for national independence and peace in the Middle East.

If a correct solution is to be found to the Middle East situation, the U.S. imperialists must renounce their policy of intervention and aggression and stop supporting the Israeli aggressors, and the latter must withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, and respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Arab countries and the fundamental national rights of the Palestinian people.

On behalf of the Vietnamese people, I take this opportunity to convey to the peoples of the United Arab Republic and of all other Arab countries cordial greetings and sincere thanks for the warm sympathy and support they extend to the just struggle of our people. I wish you glorious victory in the building of the prosperity of your countries and in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism headed by U.S. imperialism for national independence and peace in the Middle East, in Africa and in the world.

Hanoi, December 9, 1970