



**The USA Ceases All Air Raids
and Other Acts of Violence Against the DRV**

STATEMENT OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT

November 3, 1968

At the talks between representatives of the DRV and the USA in Paris it was agreed that on November 1, 1968 the United States of America would cease all air raids, naval and artillery shelling and other acts of violence against the entire territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Furthermore, it was agreed that in the immediate future representatives of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, the Saigon administration and the United States of America would meet to find ways and means for a political settlement of the Vietnam problem.

The Soviet Government regards the agreement reached in Paris as a major success on the road to a political settlement in Vietnam. This is, above all, the result of the long and selfless struggle of the fraternal Democratic Republic of Vietnam, of the entire Vietnamese people for the freedom, independence and unity of their homeland with the active support and assistance of socialist countries and all other forces of peace and progress in the world. This is a triumph of the courage and staunchness of the Vietnamese people united around the Workers' Party of Vietnam, and of the internationalist solidarity with their just, heroic struggle.

The entire course of events in Vietnam and the positive results of the first stage of the talks between the DRV and US governments in Paris convincingly demonstrate that the only way out of the aggressive war is to cease the bombing raids and all other military operations against the DRV, which is a sovereign socialist state.

The agreement reached in Paris implies growing recognition of this fact in the United States of America itself, this being mirrored, in particular, in the line of those circles who display political realism in the approach to the Vietnam problem and oppose the world-peace-jeopardising policy of the most aggressive bellicose forces, who seek to continue and escalate the war in Vietnam. On whether this line prevails in US policy largely depend not only the results of

the forthcoming talks in Paris but also the prospects for relaxing world tension as a whole, a development that would conform to the vital interests of all peoples, the people of the United States of America among them.

True to the great principles of proletarian internationalism, the Soviet Union firmly and consistently supports the struggle of the Vietnamese people, according them all the necessary assistance to repulse imperialist attack. The Soviet Government has repeatedly emphasised that the complete and unconditional cessation of the bombing raids and other acts of aggression against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam could open the road to a political settlement and to the restoration of peace in Vietnam.

The Soviet Government holds the view that at present the situation is more favourable for ending the slaughter in South Vietnam, for the complete withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam and for a political settlement of the Vietnam problem as a whole.

The talks on a political settlement of the Vietnam problem are entering a new phase. They will be closely followed by the peoples vitally interested in preserving and strengthening world peace.

Progress in the forthcoming talks between the sides will depend on whether the US Government will display a realistic and serious approach to the stand of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, a stand which mirrors the aspirations of the Vietnamese people and conforms to the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

The Soviet Union has always advocated the settlement of international issues by peaceful means and called for a relaxation of world tension. This foreign policy line, defined in the decisions of the 23rd Congress of the CPSU, has been consistently pursued and its aim is to ensure the security and peaceful life of the peoples.

The Soviet Union is prepared to promote relations of peaceful co-operation with all countries, big and small, which pursue the same objective. Every initiative leading to the consolidation of peace and upholding the rights and interests of the peoples continues, as it has always done, to receive the support of the Soviet Government. But, as in the past, the Soviet Union will resolutely oppose the intrigues of aggressors and infringements of the gains of socialism,

and uphold the interests of its own and its friends' security.

Along with its friends and allies—the socialist countries—the Soviet Union has done and will go on doing its utmost to preserve and consolidate peace among nations.

(*Pravda*, November 3, 1968)