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**PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S
APPEAL
TO THE NATION**

Fellow-countrymen and fighters all over the country,

Under the impact of the great victories won by our armed forces and people in both parts of our country, especially in the South, since early spring this year, the United States Government was forced on November 1st, 1968 to end unconditionally its bombing and shelling of the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Thus, after four years of extremely heroic fighting our armed forces and people have won a glorious victory, having shot down more than 3,200 aircraft, set afire over a hundred big and small war vessels and **defeated the American imperialists' war of destruction** against the North of our country.

That is a victory of very momentous significance for our people's great resistance to U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

The American imperialists had thought that with the savage destructive power of bombs and shells they would be in a position to weaken the North, prevent the great rear from supporting the great front and impair the combat capacity of the South. But, in fact, as the North fought against the American aggressors, it grew stronger and steadier in every respect and unceasingly gave wholehearted assistance to the liberation struggle of their heroic fellow-countrymen in the South. Similarly, our Southern kith and kin's unity and strength and successes have been increasing at the same rate as the intensity of their struggle. That victory is due to our Party's revolutionary line, to our people's ardent patriotism and the strength of their unity and determination to fight and win, to the excellence of our socialist regime. It goes to the common credit of our armed forces and people in both South and North. That is also a victory of the peoples of the fraternal socialist countries and our friends in the five continents.

On this occasion, on behalf of the Party and the Government, I warmly praise our compatriots and fighters all over the country, and sincerely thank the fraternal socialist countries, friendly countries

far and near, and the world people, including progressive people in the United States, for their great help and their sympathy and support.

Dear fellow-countrymen and fighters,

We have defeated the war of destruction of the American imperialists in the North. But this is only an initial victory. The American imperialists are very obdurate and perfidious. They talk of "peace" and "negotiation" while persisting in their dark aggressive designs. More than a million American, puppet and satellite troops are still daily committing untold crimes against our Southern compatriots.

Therefore, the sacred duty of our entire people at present is to **stiffen our determination to fight and win, our resolve to liberate the South, defend the North and proceed towards peaceful national reunification.**

So long as there remains an aggressor on our soil, we must continue our fight and wipe him out.

Our heroic people and fighters in the **South**, under the glorious banner of the **National Front for Liberation**, are staging uninterrupted offensives and uprisings and resolutely advance towards complete victory.

Our armed forces and people in the **North** are bending all their efforts on patriotic emulation to build socialism and fulfil their obligations towards their Southern kith and kin, constantly sharpening their vigilance, practising self-reliance, and increasing their strength and readiness to fight and frustrate all new schemes of the enemy.

We are confident that our people's resistance to American aggression, for national salvation, will enlist ever-growing sympathy, support and help from the peoples of the fraternal countries and all over the world, including progressive people in the United States.

After nearly a century of colonial servitude and over twenty years of resistance to imperialist wars of aggression, our people, more than any other, have deeply at heart peace which is needed for national construction. But it must be **genuine peace in independence and freedom**.

That is why we firmly demand that :

— The United States Government put an end to its war of aggression against Viet Nam and definitively abstain from all encroachments on the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam ;

— All American and satellite troops be withdrawn from South Viet Nam ;

— The internal affairs of South Viet Nam be settled by the South Vietnamese people themselves in accordance with the Political Program of the National Front for Liberation, without foreign interference ;

— The reunification of Viet Nam be resolved by the people of the two zones, South and North, without foreign intervention.

Dear fellow-countrymen and fighters,

Many hardships and sacrifices still lie ahead of us, but our people's great resistance to American aggression, for national salvation, is progressing at a brisk pace towards victory. The Fatherland calls on us to rush enthusiastically forward and win complete victory over the American aggressors!

The American imperialists will certainly be defeated!

Our people will certainly win!

Hanoi, November 3, 1968