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Let's Fulfil Our Sacred Duty To Our Southern Kith-and-Kin

(Abridged translation of an editorial of *Nhan Dan*)

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DURING the past four years of the U.S. war of destruction against the Northern part of our country, our armed forces and people have fought with matchless heroism and recorded glorious victories on the whole of the territory and in all spheres of activity: on the A-A gunsites and on the communication lines, on the paddy fields and in the factories, in the organisation of the people's life as well as in the laying of the material and technical bases of socialism. In the thick of fighting, thanks to an adequate and timely change of orientation, our economy has made a notable step forward and has been able to meet to an important extent the needs of the fight, production and the people's life.]

Agriculture has been forging vigorously ahead in the direction of intensive cultivation, having taken an initial step in the building of the necessary bases for its all-round development. The industrial network has expanded considerably. Parallel with maintaining the operation of key industrial branches at the central level, a network of industrial enterprises run by the local authorities has taken shape, which jointly satisfies the needs of agriculture and those of the people's life. As a result, local economy has achieved a vigorous and balanced development. And in spite of U.S. bombings and shellings, transport and

communications, for their part, have not been brought to a standstill not even for a minute. In the conditions of a fierce war, the people has been adequately supplied with necessaries.

Turning to account the revolutionary heroism of our people and the superiority of the new production relations, we have carried out the fighting along with the building of the material and technical foundations of socialism. While meeting the needs of the fighting, we have increased the force of the people, thus creating the necessary prerequisites for large-scale construction of the country when circumstances permit. Socialist North Viet Nam, great rear of the revolution of the entire country, is strengthening every day in all respects.

SUSTAINING continuous heavy defeats in both the South and the North of our country, the U.S. imperialists have been forced to halt unconditionally the air bombings and artillery and naval shellings on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N. Just as President Ho Chi Minh has pointed out, this is "a victory of very momentous significance for our people's great resistance against American aggression, for national salvation". (November 3 Appel to the nation). However, the U.S. imperialists have not given up their aggressive

design. They continue to perpetrate daily innumerable crimes against our compatriots in the South. Therefore, it is the sacred task of every citizen in the North to push ahead the patriotic emulation movement for building socialism and fulfilling his duty to our brothers and sisters in the South, to heighten his vigilance and contribute his best to the consolidation of the North. In order to defeat the U.S. aggression, liberate the South, defend the North and pave the way for the peaceful reunification of the country, we must exert still bigger efforts, redouble our zeal in our work with a view to pushing forward the economic growth and strengthening the North in all respects.

THE patriotic emulation movement for socialist construction in North Viet Nam is in full swing. The correct leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the D.R.V.N. Government, the revolutionary heroism of our people, valuable assistance from the brotherly countries and the world's peoples are factors of our victory and guarantees of new successes. Developing the spirit of revolutionary offensive on the production front and raising our organisational capacities, we are determined to make of North Viet Nam the firm rear-base of the South and fulfil our sacred duty to our Southern kith-and-kin.

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