

Since 28 January 1973, when the agreement went into effect, gunfire has continued to resound, and the intensity with which the communist camp has renewed hostilities has become increasingly greater. Moreover, North Vietnam has infiltrated troops, weapons, and war materiel into the south in an attempt to renew its aggression and realize its dream of annexing this free land. Consequently, this year, as in previous years, we still must commemorate King Hung's anniversary amid the flames of war because of the spirit and actions of those who have forgotten their origin and denied all the traditional relationships among people of the same race.

The communists' cruelty cannot be condoned, since on our side our entire people as well as our government have adopted an extremely conciliatory attitude in seeking a political solution to the south through free and democratic means.

The communists' attitude confirms President Nguyen Van Thieu's arguments in his appeal to the compatriots at last year's King Hung anniversary ceremony. President Nguyen Van Thieu said: The communists no longer know that they are Vietnamese, because they have been uprooted. Kinship cannot move their hearts. Terms which we consider sacred--such as fatherland and compatriots--can no longer move or awaken them because they no longer have a fatherland or ancestors. Their fatherland is the communists' fatherland. Their ancestors are (?Marx and Lenin). They have no compatriots but only comrades. Their comrades are certainly not those who consider themselves King Hung's children or grandchildren.

Since our adversary has adopted such a clear-cut bearing and attitude toward us, the path ahead for us is too obvious. This is the path of uniting with each other more closely than ever in kinship so as to defend our country and save our people from danger.

President Nguyen Van Thieu is busy with his official trip abroad because of great state affairs. I earnestly call on the compatriots of all walks of life and of all ages, regardless of sex, to be clearly conscious of the situation, in which this country has not yet escaped the war danger, so that they will heighten their vigilance. The compatriots should not let themselves be persuaded by the communists' sugar-coated words. Everyone must fulfill his civic duty in order to neutralize all the perfidious communist schemes and frustrate all the adversary's aggressive efforts.

All of us must be vigilant. Otherwise communist North Vietnam, using the label of the NFLSV, will place upon our necks the anti-people atheist yoke.

Today, before the fatherland altar, all of us--the 18 million descendants of King Hung--firmly believe in the final victory of our just cause. We vow not to let the communists deprive us of our freedom and independence or destroy the happiness of our present generation as well as future generations. My salutation to the compatriots.