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Committee Foreign Relations Committee: "Let's Broaden  
International Public Relations a Step Further"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The great diplomatic achievements over the past five years must be attributed in part to the contributions of international public relations, which have assumed an increasingly important role.

For many decades now, the movement for solidarity and friendship between our mass organizations and social groups and the world's people has made important contributions to the great success of the revolutionary undertaking in Vietnam. Following the great upheavals in Eastern European countries and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world situation developed in a complicated manner, and our international public relations lost their momentum to a serious degree and faced many difficulties and uncertainties. The Third Plenum Resolution of the Seventh Party Central Committee and Directive No. 44 of the Seventh Party Central Committee Secretariat on broadening and renovating international public relations has chartered a new course of action for international public relations. International public relations have, over the past five years, been broadened quickly and have become more dynamic and more diverse than ever before thanks to the participation of members of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, mass organizations, politico-social groups, professional organizations, governmental agencies, and localities. Unlike in the past when efforts were focused mainly on socialist countries and a small number of international democratic organizations, international public relations now involve

large-scale operations, new forms, and multifaceted activities, thereby making positive contributions to the success of the renovation undertaking.

We participate in the activities of dozens of international organizations, maintain traditional ties, and promote new relations with the Women's International Democratic Federation, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the World Peace Council, the International Labor Organization, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Organizations, the International Red Cross Committee, the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, the International Journalists Organization, the Asia Buddhist Peace Organization, the Asia-Pacific Philatelists Association, and other international organizations.

Following Vietnam's admission to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, our mass organizations have participated in various ASEAN affiliated organizations. For examples, the Vietnam Journalists Association has joined the ASEAN Journalists Federation, the Vietnam Women's Union [VWU] has joined the Council of ASEAN Women's Organizations, and the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union has established relations with its counterparts in the region.

Many social groups and mass organizations have promoted relations with UNDP [United Nations Development Program], UNICEF, UNIFEM [United Nations Development Fund for Women], UNESCO, ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific], and other United Nations and intergovernmental organizations. They have also attended many important congresses, conferences, and forums. For examples, a delegation comprising hundreds of VWU members has attended the fourth World Women's Conference and the Non-Governmental Organizations [NGO] Women Forum held in Beijing in the fall of 1995. Our mass organizations have sent their delegations to a number of international conferences to discuss issues relating to labor, mine disposal, scientific-technological development, family planning, protection of mothers and children, and measures against social evils and population explosion, and so forth.

More than 40 friendship associations and hundreds of friendship clubs have been set up at both the central and local levels to promote friendship with foreign countries. Our social organizations, mass societies, and politico-social groups have established friendly and cooperative ties with the peoples of more than 100 countries in the world who belong to different social classes, political beliefs, religious organizations, and ethnic groups. Members of the aforementioned organizations also include many notables, intellectuals, writers, artists, and war veterans.

Our mass, civilian, and nongovernmental organizations have established relations with 444 foreign NGO's. Of these, nearly 200 are carrying out hundreds of aid projects

in Vietnam. Thirty-two NGO's from various countries have established their representative offices in Vietnam. Several dozens of millions of U.S. dollars worth of aid have been obtained for our people each year from foreign NGO's through various practical projects on water conservation, clean water supply, reforestation, communications, environmental protection, public health, education, and culture being built in many villages, hamlets, and wards. These projects have created favorable conditions for our people to develop their relations with foreign NGO's.

In the new world situation, international public relations have, in certain cases, helped pave the way for our country to establish diplomatic ties with other countries, to attract foreign investment capital, new technologies, and socioeconomic management experiences, and to step up economic exchanges.

Together with our government's diplomatic activities and our party's foreign relations efforts, our international public relations activities are an integral part of our country's general diplomatic policy. Our international public relations efforts are designed to: help consolidate an environment of peace and create more favorable conditions for accelerating national industrialization and modernization, and socioeconomic development; serve the cause of building and defending the socialist fatherland; and contribute to the world's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

Led by the party and guided by the party Central Committee's Foreign Relations Committee, international public relations activities of various mass organizations, political and social organizations, professional societies, charitable and humanitarian organizations, and NGO's must reflect the party's foreign policy line of national independence, openness, diversification, multilateralization, dynamism, and flexibility in international relations. This policy line must be carried out creatively, lively, and flexibly in conformity with the actual capability of each relevant mass organization or civilian group and with the characteristics of each particular foreign partner with which we are having relations.

The resolution of the Eighth Party Congress points out: "It is necessary to broaden our international public relations and our relations with NGO's and to struggle to win sympathy and widespread support from the peoples of various countries so as to help promote the trend toward peace, cooperation, and development."

In that spirit, we broaden international public relations a step further on the basis of the principles of independence, sovereignty, friendship, equality, mutual respect, and nonintervention in each other's internal affairs.

The objectives of efforts to promote international

public relations are as follows:

- Making the world's people better understand Vietnam, its land and people, and the domestic and foreign policies of our party and state;
- Gaining the sympathy and support of the world's people for our cause of renovation, industrialization and modernization, and national defense and construction;
- Consolidating friendship and cooperation with the world's people and promoting solidarity with and support for their just struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress; and
- Contributing solutions to the settlement of global issues relating to the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, AIDS control and prevention, environmental protection...

Positive efforts must be made to maintain and renovate the activities of the international organizations of which our country is a member. Plans must be worked out to attract investment capital and new technology; draw socioeconomic management experiences; obtain nonrefundable foreign aid; and gain the support of foreign notables, intellectuals, sociopolitical groups, NGO's, professional societies, and national or international charitable organizations.

We must, together with our efforts to broaden international public relations, strive for good management in order to guarantee increasingly effective results. We must ensure close coordination among organizations or agencies in charge of international public relations. We must also secure the positive assistance of the government and administrative organs at all levels. Measures must be taken to renovate the operating procedures of all organizations specializing in international public relations.

"The people live forever" and "form the root." People all over the world always long for peace, friendship, national independence, democracy, and social progress. By bringing into play the strong points of international public relations, we can make friends and gain the broad-based political support of the world's people for our country. The world is moving. Mankind is surging forward. We are very lucky to have many friends on all five continents. We go hand-in-hand with, remain attached to, and integrate ourselves into the world community. These attributes form the elements of the international public relations policy of Uncle Ho and our party and also the diplomatic traditions of our people.

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