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Hong Ha

## Communist party leader tours the US

A SENIOR Vietnamese Communist Party official is on a tour of the United States in the highest level visit since the two countries normalised relations last month.

Hong Ha, chairman of the communist party external relations commission and a member of the central committee secretariat, is visiting San Francisco, Atlanta, Washington and New York to hold meetings with US officials and think-tanks.

A former journalist and now a leading figure behind Vietnam's foreign relations, Ha was invited to tour the United States for 10 days by the Ford Foundation, which has organised a series of visits by top Vietnamese officials.

Ha is meeting State Department and Pentagon officials and holding discus-

sions with members of the Council of Foreign Relations in New York, according to Mark Sidel, Ford Foundation programme officer for Vietnam.

Other more senior party officials such as Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai and Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam - both members of the Politburo - have already visited the United States in their Government roles.

Vice Foreign Minister Vu Khoan recently completed a similar tour and the Ford Foundation has invited General Vo Nguyen Giap, the former defence minister who led Vietnam to its victories over France and the United States.

President Bill Clinton normalised relations with Vietnam in July. Earlier

this month, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher opened the first US embassy in Hanoi, 20 years after the US defeat here.

Among those Ha is expected to visit in Washington is State Department official Desaix Anderson, whom Christopher named as charge d'affaires in Hanoi, pending nomination and Senate approval of an ambassador.

President Le Duc Anh is due to visit New York in September for celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

It has not yet been decided whether President Anh will meet any US officials during his stay.

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**CPV Central Committee Secretary Visits U.S.**

**Trip Activities Outlined**

BK2808084595 *Hanoi VNA in English*  
0610 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Aug. 27. — Mr. Hong Ha, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and head of its External Relations Commission, has paid a working visit to the United States as guest of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS).

While there, the party secretary visited some states and cities and had working sessions with senior officials of the departments of state and defense, the Sponsor Council, the Council on Foreign Relations, Funds, and Major Research Centres. He called at a number of cultural and economic establishments and met with US investors who have come or are to come to Vietnam. He visited some non-governmental organizations operating in Vietnam, the office of CNN television firm, and the headquarters of the United Nations. He also talked with Vietnamese students in the US, overseas Vietnamese and American friends.

During these meetings, Mr. Ha spoke about Vietnam's foreign policies, its stance in the relations with the US, its socio-economic situation, and its foreign investment policy. He expressed gratitude to US organizations and friends for their solidarity with and support to the Vietnamese people in the past struggle as well as their fine sentiments at present.

The American side, particularly researchers and learners, highly appreciated Vietnam's achievements in its renovation process and foreign policy. They said that Vietnam is holding an important position in Southeast Asia and Asia-Pacific that the US-Vietnam ties have entered in a new stage which, though difficulties ahead, would constantly develop.

Vietnamese Charge d'Affaires to the US Le Bang and head of the Vietnamese mission to the United Nations Ngo Quang Xuan accompanied the party secretary in these activities.

**Official's Comments Cited**

BK2908132295 *Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English*  
1000 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A senior Vietnamese Communist Party official has visited the United State of America. He is Mr. Hong Ha, secretary of the party Central Committee and head of the Foreign Relations Commission. The visit was made at the invitation of the Amer-

ican Council of Learned Societies. We now highlight Mr. Hong Ha's comment on the visit.

He told the Vietnamese leaders at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi that Americans held it as the first visit to the United States by a senior Vietnamese official after Washington normalized relations. Hong Ha said the purpose of the visit was to inquire into U.S. policies, particularly policy related to bilateral relations after the normalization of relations. U.S. officials who are going to work in Vietnam such as Mr. Anderson, charge d'affaires a.i. [ad interim]; the American consul; and representatives of trade and foreign offices and agencies all met Mr. Hong Ha to express wish to further promote economic and trade relations with Vietnam. The U.S. Council of Foreign Relations said it would send a mission to Hanoi to prepare for the coming visit by Mr. Robert McNamara, the former U.S. secretary of state [as heard] during the American war.

Relating to the process of bilateral relations, Mr. Hong Ha held that Vietnam and the United States have entered a new chapter with new prospect. Meanwhile, a new complicated issue also propped up. He said the United States informed him about the follow-up steps including granting Vietnam the most favored nation status. In the coming October, a U.S. mission will come to Vietnam to discuss the signing of a trade agreement and to solve the issue relating to bilateral economic and trade relations. Vietnam also reaffirmed its wish to, together with the United States, establish a new framework for cooperative relations between the two countries on the basis of respecting each other's independence, sovereignty, not to interfere in each other's internal affairs, equality, mutual benefit, and respect of the basic principles of international law.

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AUG. - 1995

**VIETNAM**

**Top official visits US**

Hong Ha, a senior member of Vietnam's Communist Party and head of its foreign affairs department, began an 11-day visit to the US on 12 August, sponsored by the Ford Foundation. Ha was scheduled to meet with American scholars and officials at universities, think tanks, and political institutions during his visit to San Francisco, Atlanta, Washington, and New York City. At the State Department in Washington on 17 August, Ha met with acting Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Hubbard and Desaix Anderson, the new charge d'affaires at the US embassy in Hanoi. On 18 August, Ha met with Assistant Secretary of Defense Joseph Nye.

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September 7, 1995

CPV Secretary Hong Ha's answers to the Hanoi press after his return from the U.S.

VIET NAM (VNNT): VCP CC Secretary, Head of the Central External Affairs Office, was interviewed by the Lao-Dong (Workers) newspaper on August 27, 1995 at his return from America. Following is the gist of his remarks:

... In response to an invitation from the Council of American Studies organizations Ford Foundation (Hoi Dong cac to-chuc Hoc-Thuat My Ford Foundation), important organizations involved in studies of U.S. foreign policy, I made a fact-finding trip to America to assess VN-US bilateral relations after normalization. I had the opportunity to meet different U.S. officials from the Congress, from the departments of State and of Defense, from institutes and centers of studies, from NGO's, etc ... Useful exchanges in the course of such meetings have helped me better understand the working of U.S. institutions and the formulation process of U.S. policy. I had the chance to present to our U.S. counterparts the SRV's policy. It was summer recess and I was disappointed for not being able to meet again with those U.S. Senators who had helped speed up U-S-VN normalization of relations process (Sen. John Kerry, Sen. John McCain. ) Many U.S. officials on the other hand, specially those assigned to Viet Nam, Mr. Anderson, Acting Charge d'Affaires, the representative of the American Consul, U.S. Trade representatives, U.S. AID representatives, did call on me and express wishes for speedier economic ties. In addition, the U.S. Foreign Affairs Council did also inform me that it will send a delegation to Vietnam to make preparations for Mr. McNamara's coming trip there. New problems and issues have been put in perspective by the American side: subsequent steps on bilateral relations (one of these steps involves the granting of MFN status to Vietnam.)

I was informed that a U.S. delegation will come to Vietnam next October to discuss the signing of trade agreement and to solve problems involving economic & commercial relations. I also reminded the U.S. side of the Vietnam's position: working together with the American side to find a new framework of cooperation based on these principles: mutual respect for independence and sovereignty, non-interference into internal affairs, equality, mutual benefit, and respect for the principles of international legislation.

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## VIETNAM

### Top official visits US

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