

In such circumstances it is impossible to believe that we could have paid more attention to the living conditions of the people and the direct interests of the people. The main responsibility of every family, every village, and every person was to contribute to our common cause. In this period, it was natural for us that the most important factor in our life was taking risks and self-sacrifice.

[Question] Six years have passed since your contry was reunified. The SRV has gone through a very important period since this time, since the reunification. How would you describe the most important events of this time?

[Answer] We have achieved significant successes during these years, first of all in the sphere of full reunification of the two parts of the country -- the SRV was founded. We began the economic rebuilding of Vietnam.

However, the greatest victory of our people during this period was the triumph over the Chinese intruders. The talks between our countries did not lead to success, and these talks were prolonged and became unfruitful because of the great power, hegemonist and chauvinist stand of the Chinese side. Beijing is increasing tension. [word indistinct] The atmosphere is tense at the talks too. The Chinese belittle, denigrate us. They have brought together more than half a million soldiers on our borders, and this is only the number of people of the centrally directed troops. The local forces of border districts must be added onto this. (?Six) army corps were concentrated on our borders, with three to four divisions per army corps. That is, on the northern border of Vietnam there are constantly stationed at least 12 centrally directed Chinese divisions. The provocations (come from here). They bombard our territory, their units penetrate Vietnam, they kill peaceful civilian inhabitants, workers.

However, in Beijing they accuse us of attacking them, of increasing the tension. Precisely the Chinese leaders called on their people to modernize the army at any cost, and they oppose Vietnam, or as they put it, the hegemonist power of the Indochinese region. The Chinese leaders, for instance (?Deng Xiaoping) and [name indistinct] constantly threaten that they will give a further lesson to Vietnam. In such circumstances, our people and army undoubtedly must stand in readiness. High-level alertness must be evidenced. This is exactly why we continue to keep general mobilization in force. Our army and people stand in readiness for (?battle). As I mentioned, Vietnam does not want war. We endeavor for peace. We do not want conflict, but friendship with the Chinese people. (?But) if they attack us, we undoubtedly will strike back. They will suffer a much more painful defeat than during the most recent war. It cannot be known yet who will give a lesson to whom, but on the basis of all this, it is my opinion that the threat of war is very real.

And taking place at the same time as all this, which I consider very important to emphasize, was that in cooperation with the Kampuchean people, with joint strength, we managed to bring an end to the rule of the genocidal Cambodian regime.

Regarding the building of socialism in Vietnam itself, we could enter significant successes in our books in this sphere too.

[Question] What do you consider to be the gravest problems in economic development?

[Answer] Our main goal is to boost agricultural production. Only then can we resolve the most urgent, pressing everyday material problems. This is our most important task and goal. The other important aspect is that we continue the country's industrialization program, that we progress in economic activity directed at laying the foundations of socialism.