

peasants suffer the most whenever war breaks out at any place of the world. They work very hard but are very happy because they know that their future will be bright in peace.

Venerable OKKAHATA
Burmese Buddhist Monk — 1958

THE CONCERN OF ALL

There are things which are engraved in one's memory once and for all.

There are things which are worth reviving in spite of many difficulties.

I should like to refer to my sojourn in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam of which I keep an unforgettable memento.

My meeting with President Ho Chi Minh has left a deep impression. His simplicity, his broad knowledge, and his affection are the reasons why he is loved by all his people.

My visits and meetings with the various sections of the population, miners, teachers, doctors, peasants, workers, etc. have taught me what a national labour, a national longing are.

I have realized that the national re-habilitation which is progressing with giant strides is the concern of all. I have realized that the national reunification of Viet Nam through peaceful means is the entire people's concern.

F. RADACAL
Youth of the Guadeloupe — 1958

AN EXAMPLE OF GREAT ENDURANCE AND SELF-DEVOTION

For us, who have been for a long time struggling and sacrificing for the elementary requirements of men's dignity, the great endurance, the lofty self-devotion, the irrepressible will and the boundless courage of the Vietnamese people are a most inspiring and stimulating source.

MOSTAFA KHALIFA

Head of the Egyptian Trade Delegation — 1959

NO DIFFICULTY NOR OBSTACLE

The energy, both spiritual and material of the Vietnamese people makes the advance of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam irresistible. That is why I would like to say that under the socialist regime there will be no such word as « difficulty and obstacle » in the dictionary of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, whether that struggle is waged in war time or in peace time.

HONG UNGTRA CUL

Thai Journalist — 1958

TIRELESSNESS AND SELFLESSNESS

What has been for ever engraved in my heart is the lofty devotion of the leaders of state in tirelessly and selflessly leading the Vietnamese people's advance. That is very unusual in the countries which boast to be civilized ones.

SAN RAN
Thai Journalist — 1958

UNTOLD SACRIFICES IN RESISTANCE, STRENUOUS EFFORTS IN CONSTRUCTION

I was deeply moved by the warm sympathy and friendship of the Vietnamese people towards the Algerian people. I was struck by the untold sacrifices of the Vietnamese people in their long and heroic resistance as well as by the strenuous efforts they have displayed in the construction of a new Viet Nam. I am sure the Vietnamese people will secure national reunification.

MALEK RIDHA
Editor-in-Chief
of the El Moudjahid (The Fighter)
Algeria — 1958

HANOI AND I

O Hanoi!
I come here, with nothing
But my heart.
That heart — a boundless love.

All those who come here never want to part.
Hanoi, I am sure, does not disappoint me.
Here is Hanoi, a milestone on the long road of
friendship —

Road trodden since long past
And covered by the dust of time and history,
Now opens up again for new meetings,
So that together, side by side, shoulder to shoulder,
We advance to the victory of friendship...

*
* *

I would like to ask whether the Red River
Has ever washed the Indonesian islands,
I would like to ask whether the Western Lake wind
Has ever blow through the Bukit forests.
But now that I am in Hanoi
What I asked for is a heartfelt feeling.
I've talked with the quiet Red River,
With the Hac Tri guerillas who defended their villages
And triumphantly entered Hanoi as victors.
I've talked with the dear Western Lake
Whose water lightly lulls my soul.
The morning breeze carries far away the voice and
laughter
Of Tuti and Duriami
Whose hair is impregnated with a fragrant jessamine
scent

*
* *

O Hanoi, Hanoi !
Never shall we be separated.
I have nothing with me but my heart ;
May I offer it to you ?
In this boundless realm of friendship and peace.
Your feelings and mine are mingled.

They arise from the people's heart
Filled with deep-felt love,
And ocean-wide hopeful ideal.
O Hanoi, Hanoi !
You and I, we share the same blood,
We're the people's sons
Tirelessly fighting
For entire independence
And bright future.
We walk under a shining sky,
A sky of affection and love
A sky of rose and freshness.

BANDA HARAHAP
Head of the Artistic Delegation
of Indonesia — 1959

**A GRACIOUS, SIMPLE AND PROUD,
ENERGETIC AND SENSIBLE PEOPLE**

But how can I pass over the joy I feel as a French journalist to be received today as a friend, invited at their own will by a free people to their beautiful land ? How can we not have confidence in the solidarity and friendship between our two peoples, having seen you struggle against the horrors of a war ? I will carry away in my heart what I have seen in their own country a gracious, simple and proud, energetic and sensible people...

JEAN MAURICE HERMANN
French journalist — 1955

WE HAVE CRIED BECAUSE BEING FRENCHMEN...

When we crossed the border, we were surprised at the reception given to us by the Vietnamese people. It will be a long time before we see again the Lang Son station where the population acclaimed with long ovations the messengers of peace from France. Our emotion was at its peak. We have said and we repeat : we have cried. We have cried because, being Frenchmen, we shall not forget, and the reception extended to us was for us a great consolation and at the same time a most imperative duty.

JACQUES MITTERAND
Advisor of the French Union — 1955

During our visit, we have had a ceaseless close view of this war-damaged land, the innumerable sufferings of this brave people and often we felt sore in our hearts. But what a relief that never once was our first impression contradicted : this desire for peace, this thirst for peace and friendship with France.

Madam YVES FARGE
Member of the World Council of Peace,
Member of the Honorary Committee of
the National Association of old
militants of French resistance — 1955

WARM INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

As a journalist, I have been in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam for two years. During these two years, this beautiful land has known many changes

which have deeply impressed me. But as a Chinese visitor, my greatest impression, and this I wish to tell everybody, is the friendship, the warm international solidarity. Never once during these two years did I feel I was working in a foreign country. On the contrary, I felt I was amidst closest friends, dearest to my heart.

CHANG KE
Correspondent for People's Daily .
China — 1956

A HAPPY AND UNITED PEOPLE

I visited north Viet Nam twenty years after my first trip there. I saw a happy people living in a democratic republican regime, united in their work of building a prosperous Viet Nam invested with an entire political and economic sovereignty. A regime supported by the entire people is unquestionably a good regime in which the interests of the country and those of the people are placed above all.

LEN MENG
Cambodian journalist — 1960

THE FUTURE IS THEIRS

The Vietnamese Youth are rightly proud of themselves. They have displayed courage and heroism during the most trying days of the history of their country.

Now a lot of work is waiting for them. They are quite aware of it and I have seen their enthusiasm at work. Sure, the future is theirs.

PAUL GIBUS
President of the Guiana's Students Union
1958

THE REVOLUTION GIVES HUMAN FAITH BACK TO THE POOR

I have understood why they begin to count their ages from the Revolution afterwards. The first order issued by the Republic says : « Take from the French their granaries, give the starvelings their rice ». The Revolution gives human faith back to the poor and rouses in them the human nature which has been degraded.

WOJCIECH ZUKROWSKI
House without walls
Poland — 1959

VIETNAMESE VOTE FOR THE FIRST TIME

These elections took place on January 6th, 1946. It was the first time in their national history that the Vietnamese went to the polls. Though there was a single list almost everywhere, the number of candidates on it exceeded by far the number of deputies required : 77 candidates against 6 seats in Hanoi, 107

against 12 at Haiphong, 58 against 7 at Ha Tinh, etc. the percentage of voters was high and the foreign observers, the Americans for instance, recognized that the elections were held in quite normal conditions. Ho Chi Minh polled 169,222 votes out of 172,765 voters from 187,888 electors in Hanoi, General Vo Nguyen Giap obtained 97 per cent of the votes in Vinh. These elections organized in January by the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam were held in secret in many provinces in the South. There were 800,000 voters in the five provinces of the South-West, the strong bases of the Resistance. The national unity was intact.

JEAN CHESNEAUX
Contribution to the history of the
Vietnamese nation.

THE PEOPLE RULE

It is the people who rule in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. All sections of the population are represented in the National Assembly, the highest ruling body. Most of the deputies are workers and peasants. The same is observed in local organs. It is quite natural that the state policy serves the people's interests. Even the «Tu Do» (Liberty), newspaper issued in south Viet Nam recognizes that the Democratic Republican regime «meets with the aspirations of the poor».

IVAN KOULAKOV
New Times
Soviet Union — 1959

A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY

The Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is a democratic body with a government of its own elected by a National Assembly composed of all classes. Their opposition to the French regime is based on the principle of national self-determination. The numerous breaches of faith by the French government, particularly in the Bay of Ha Long agreement, have convinced them that French offers of independence to Viet Nam are not genuine and sincere.

NEW TIMES OF BURMA

1949

THEY HAVE VOTED FOR A HAPPY FUTURE

Elections to the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam took place last Sunday — the second elections during the 15 years of existence of the Democratic Republic.

During these 15 years, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has known only six years of peace. Out of the other nine years, there was one year of uncertainty and provocations by the French colonialists armed to the teeth, and eight years of hard and ruthless war. Then came the U. S. A. interference, which caused the partition of Viet Nam into two parts. Almost half of the population do not know peace and freedom. According to the Geneva Agreements, signed in 1954, Viet Nam should have been reunified nearly four years ago...

During the past six years, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has tried its utmost to have the country reunified...

Citizens of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam have many reasons to have confidence in the candidates. Government leaders, labour heroes, outstanding fighters in the national liberation struggle, the most conscious women, representatives of national minorities — all of them form the fighting forces of the country — the Viet Nam Lao Dong Party and the Viet Nam Fatherland Front. The six years of construction have testified to this confidence.

The people of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam have balloted for patriotic candidates and have thus voted for the people's interests and benefit, world socialism and peace.

KAREL PRASEK

Correspondent for Rude Pravo
Czechoslovakia — 1960

IMPRESSIVE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION

What impresses me most is the story of the resistant village of Lien Minh which the French invaders were able to occupy only for a few weeks, though nearly all the surrounding area had been placed under their control. Simple peasants and farmers who had come to learn by necessity to handle a gun and throw a hand-grenade, were the terror of the French battalions which were well officered and armed to the teeth. I am impressed by the story of that village defended by valiant men because it eloquently synthesizes the struggle for the liberation of all the Vietnamese people, composed mostly of peasants, who have taken up the military profession by necessity and have been able to defeat in the most difficult conditions an invader far better armed than they.

REMUS LUCA

A visitor to Viet Nam
Rumania — 1959

FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF VIET NAM

Valiant Fighters ! You enter'd golden gates of Divine
Kingdom
As you made your desire, the desire of Freedom ;
Unfading deeds of heroism unfold'd to epitomize
Cao Bac Lang *
With fetters broken that bound the bleeding hand.

Day after day, and year after year
Weary hearts leap to hold you near,
And dreamy nights whisper in silent echoes
The tales of horror and the tales of woes.

Who'd efface patriotic spirit and the tears of toil
When blood drain'd to cement bursting soil ;
Oh ! the days when rifles riddl'd lustrous lives
Wicked weapons whizzing to wound weeping wives.

In country's clarion call, sisters bade their brothers
adieu
Perhaps ne'er to meet them again anew
Flames of fire flew high to glitter the sable sky
Martyrs defending Resistance Base with banners high.

Banners beaming, brave buglers blared — « Wipe the
traitors soon »
Soon to sink-in, « dreary dawn of doom » ;
And valorous Vietnamese blazed like blizzard all
around
While enemy lay motionless on the burning ground.

*Cao — Bac — Lang is an abbreviation of north Viet Nam's three mountainous provinces which served as mighty bases for the heroic and successful « War of Resistance ».

E'en riotous gardens resist'd to bloom-in beauteous
flowers,
Hungry valleys signall'd flying clouds to highlight
human horrors ;
And People's army stream'd like a shooting star
Vehemently battering aggressors, close and far.

Viet Nam' ll vigorously vindicate her virgin victory
Which's transfix'd high in heavens with angelic
purity ;
No power shall ever pollute Country's sacred name,
Standing resurrect'd from atrocious imperialist game.

Flowers of Freedom blossom in songs of severe strain
Songs that'll linger on Vietnamese lips, time and
again ;
We rejoice to cherish in the sanctuary of our heart
President Ho's dazzling present and blazing past.

Unknown Warriors! you dwell in deeds to flood
everlasting light
For Asia's unbreakable unity to glow pure and bright;
This National Day, India pays you homage again
May our Freedom's Wings, float high in twain.

PRALHAD N. MOHGAONKAR
Nagpur (India) — 1957

THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE MASSES IN LARGE MEASURE

Reports received indicate that the liberation movement of Viet Nam guided by Ho Chi Minh, President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has the support of the masses in large measure. Except for

French control in the main cities of Saigon, Hue, Hanoi and Haiphong, the country seems to be solidly behind Ho Chi Minh and his followers. The liberation movement has armed forces consisting of regular and popular troops and its own currency backed by gold in bullion. Colonial powers in their attempt to retain control of their possessions abroad brand every movement for national liberation as communist and Ho Chi Minh's organisation has been no exception.

The NEW TIMES OF BURMA
1949

THEY HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF EVERY INDIAN

The brave people of Viet Nam desire independence and peace and in this they have the full support of every Indian. If their case ultimately goes before the United Nations, it will be a challenge to the integrity of the purpose of that august body. One can only hope that it will receive a full measure of justice.

The struggle of the people of Viet Nam is merely a part of that universal fight for freedom which is being waged by such a large section of the human race today. It is symbolic of the new awakening in Asia and the new consciousness of fundamental human rights — first of which is the right to be free.

Mrs. VIJAYA LAKSHMI PANDIT
1947

The sympathy of every Indian student is with the people of Viet Nam who are fighting against French military attack to defend their hard-won freedom. The

victory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam will strengthen the forces fighting for freedom all over the world and particularly in Asia.

Excerpt from the appeal of the All India Students' Federation on the occasion of the celebration of Viet Nam Day, January 21, 1947

WHEREVER WE GO IN VIET NAM, WE CAN MEET HEROES

The Vietnamese people's history could fill dozens of thick books. Wherever we go in Viet Nam, we can meet heroes.

Dien Bien Phu symbolises the Vietnamese people's glorious victory, the dismal French and American political failure, and also a complete military defeat of imperialism such as never seen before in Asia or Africa.

S. TAHSIN

Secretary General

Indonesian Journalists' Association 1958

A TORCHLIGHT FOR THE PEOPLES OF THE FAR EAST

Among the South-East Asian countries torn by warfare or riots, Viet Nam is the only one which, step by step and steadily, advances toward final victory to become a torch lighting up the road of the Far Eastern people to peace and freedom. Despite the

joint manœuvres of the imperialist powers against the people of East Asia in the economic, political, cultural and military fields, the struggle waged by Viet Nam during these three years has been a source of confidence for us. Unlike its neighbours — Malaya, Thailand, Indonesia, Burma — which experience a lot of difficulties and face the reprisals of the imperialists, Viet Nam enters its fourth year of struggle with an unshakable faith in the final victory.

Land reform, the development of handicrafts and trade, liquidation of illiteracy, the raising of the people's cultural level, solidarity among the various strata of the population, the ideological education of the masses, the regroupment of all the patriotic forces around the government, all that is the solid foundation stone for final victory.

During the last three years, all these achievements have been obtained by the Vietnamese people with a tremendous sacrifice, sure as they are that these realizations will lead to victory, freedom and a genuine peace.

The INTELLECTUAL WORLD
China — 1948

THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN REVOLUTIONISING THEIR COUNTRY FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE

I have great pleasure in sending greetings to my brothers of Viet Nam and to her distinguished President on behalf of myself, the Afro-Asian Solidarity Association of India and the Indian people on the auspicious occasion of the Fifteenth Anniversary of their proclamation of independence. I have never had the privilege of visiting Viet Nam, but Viet Nam and her people are no strangers to me. I have met a number of her distinguished citizens in various international conferences and I know sufficient about this country and her brave people who, because of their fine qualities, have endeared themselves to me.

We admire the Vietnamese people for their bravery and spirit of sacrifice with which they wrested their freedom from the imperialists through rivers of blood. It is not long since they have been free and it is wonderful how, in this short period, they have succeeded in revolutionising their country for the good of the people. They have started new industries, built roads and dams, have arranged irrigation for their

dry lands. Industrial production has gone up and living conditions of the workers and the peasants are much better than before. New jobs are being created to give employment to the people. All this has made the people happy and consolidated. Education has also improved. Illiteracy has been basically liquidated. Schools have increased and so has the number of school-going children. Medical aid is provided free and the number of hospitals has considerably increased. And all this has been achieved within the period of five years of their freedom after the bloody war of nine years' duration.

These are brilliant victories. They already show that people are determined to rebuild their country, work and sacrifice for it till it is safe from want, disease and war and to struggle for the reunification of their fatherland by peaceful means.

Smt. RAMESHWARI NEHRU
President,
Indian Association for Afro-Asian Solidarity
1960

INTENSE ACTIVITY OF THE WHOLE PEOPLE

What has notably impressed me personally was the intense activity of the whole people, men, women and children, in their daily life and especially in the field of construction.

It was with great emotion that we watched thousands of your workers doing reconstruction work amidst joy and collective efforts, singing while transporting all necessary materials for the railway line, carrying basketfuls of pebbles, sand, cement and earth to complete by the end of this month the Thac-