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THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF STALWART STRUGGLE AND GLORIOUS VICTORIES

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[Text] Under the clear-sighted leadership of our party and President Ho Chi Minh, our people successfully carried out the August Revolution 35 years ago, smashing the reactionary state machinery of the imperialists and feudalists and founding the first worker-peasant state in Southeast Asia.

The August Revolution was the first brilliant success of Marxism-Leninism in a colony. It was also a glorious success on the road of national salvation found by President Ho for our people more than a half century ago, after he came to Leninism via patriotism. This was the path opened by the Russian October Revolution connecting colonial revolution with proletarian revolution in the parent state, proceeding from people's democratic national revolution to socialism by bypassing the capitalist development stage, and holding high the two banners of national independence and socialism in the new era of mankind's history.

The August Revolution was a very important landmark on the road of national founding and national protection of our people, marking a change of life for a nation with a 4,000 year history dominated by the imperialists and their feudalist henchmen for nearly a century in modern times.

With the successful August Revolution, our people shifted from the position of slaves to that of genuine masters of their country who firmly control their fate and resolutely safeguard their mastery in order to protect the gains of their revolution and build a new life in their beloved homeland.

From this historic landmark, our people, with a new state machinery in their hands and under the leadership of our party and President Ho, have been advancing along the glorious revolutionary path for the cause of national independence, people's democracy and socialism.

Rarely has a nation like our nation undergone such terrible ordeals for 35 years. The aggressive war waged by French imperialism with a view to killing the then young administration of our people and bringing our people back to slavery and the

U.S. neo-colonialist war with all the brutal might of an imperialist ringleader seeking to put down our country's revolution, to destroy our people's revolutionary gains and even to drive the northern part of our country back to the Stone Age failed pitifully.

Our people have been building socialism on the basis of a very underdeveloped economy, first in the North, at a time when our country was temporarily partitioned and then in the entire country--after the complete liberation of the South--despite all the disastrous consequences of war and neo-colonialism, the reactionary Beijing rulers' vile betrayal to our people's revolution and the wars of aggression against our country on its southwestern and northern borders.

All these fiery ordeals were borne by our people but they could not prevent our heroic nation from recording great successes in the building and protection of the fatherland.

Resistance to French imperialism with the famous Dien Bien Phu victorious battle, heralded the collapse of colonialism. In particular, the anti-U.S. national salvation war, with the historic Ho Chi Minh campaign, announced the bankruptcy of neo-colonialism in the world and has been registered as a very brilliant and glorious page in the history of our people's revolutionary struggle. Our people's initial victory over the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists broke the grip on our country's southwestern part, efficiently enabling the Kampuchean people to arise and smash the genocidal yoke of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique, henchmen of Beijing, and frustrating their plot to invade our country's northern part.

Along with their great victories in the work of liberating and protecting the fatherland, our people have scored important achievements in socialist construction.

Our party's clear-sighted policy regarding the simultaneous implementation of the two strategic tasks of carrying out the socialist revolution in the North and the democratic national revolution in the South and advancing to peacefully reunify the fatherland has brought about brilliant results in consolidating socialist North Vietnam and turning it into a decisive factor for achieving common revolutionary work throughout the country. This led to the complete victory of the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance to national reunification and to the advancement of the entire country to socialism.

Today, looking back at past years, we have good grounds for asserting that the great victory of the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance was connected with the decisive role played by socialist North Vietnam. There since 1964 the great successes in socialist transformation and socialist construction have changed the face of our country and our people, just as stated by President Ho at a special political conference held before our people waged the anti-U.S. war throughout the country.

Since 1975, our people have exerted great efforts to achieve important successes in economic development, in establishing socialist production relations and in setting up a unified economic structure for the entire country. However, these

successes have been restricted for many objective and subjective reasons and because of our shortcomings in economic and social management.

Noteworthy is the fact that our people have scored outstanding achievements in the cultural, educational and health spheres. Illiteracy has been eradicated even in South Vietnam, which was liberated not long ago. There are now nearly 13 million students in general education schools at various levels throughout the country. On the average, one of three persons can go to school. The annual number of college students is 100 times larger than the total number of college students in all of Indochina in the 1939-1940 academic year, under French domination. The educational level of thousands of people is higher than college level.

Regarding public health, our people have set up a relatively perfect health network from the central to the grassroots levels and from the urban to the rural and mountainous areas, thereby proving our party's and state's great concern for our people's health.

Regarding external relations, the SRV, in the greatest increase over more than a half century of our people's revolutionary struggle led by our communist party, has gained an increasingly enormous international prestige.

With a spirit of sacrifice in the struggle for national independence and socialism and with their positive contributions to the world people's revolutionary work, our people have won progressive mankind's love, confidence and admiration. This is a great source of encouragement and strength for our people.

With the Vietnam-USSR Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation and with the SRV's admission to CEEMA, the alliance between our country and the socialist community and especially the all-sided alliance between our country and the Soviet Union have been further strengthened and consolidated. This is a very favorable condition for our people to step up the building and defense of the socialist Vietnamese fatherland.

Our people's achievements in all spheres over the past 30 years clearly testify to the correctness of our party's leadership along the paths of Marxism-Leninism and of great President Ho Chi Minh. They reveal our people's revolutionary heroism, extraordinary fighting energy and boundless creativity, the vanguard, brave role of the communists in the ranks of the heroic Vietnamese people and the organizational and managerial role of our state, a state whose might can be even greater, if we learn how to develop strongpoints and overcome weakness. Then it can really become a socialist administration of the people and for the people. It can then skillfully manage the work of developing the economy and all aspects of social life.

All these achievements cannot, of course, be detached from international support and assistance, especially from support and assistance by the great Soviet Union, the supporting pillar of revolution and peace all over the world.

Following the success of the August Revolution, our people have scored great achievements in protecting and further developing their revolutionary gains. However,

very heavy, yet very glorious, tasks are facing us in building socialism country-wide and defending our socialist Vietnamese fatherland. In carrying out these momentous strategic tasks, we enjoy fundamental advantages: our people are traditionally a patriotic people whose strength lies in their creative, arduous labor, their intelligence, valor, unity, singlemindedness and their determination to defend and build their socialist fatherland into a wealthy and powerful country. Our national resources are bountiful and varied. Our independent country, reunified after a long period, is advancing toward socialism. We enjoy the correct leadership of an experienced genuine Marxist-Leninist party which has gone through a long revolutionary period and which is striving to firmly grasp the objective rules of economic and social development. We have a nationwide administrative apparatus of a state of the dictatorship of the proletariat which is being improved organizationally and managerially. We have a matured, powerful people's armed force which is rapidly being standardized and modernized and which is fully devoted to the country and the people, highly vigilant, and determined to fulfill all tasks entrusted by the fatherland and the country. On the international front, we have maintained close solidarity with the Lao and Kampuchean peoples who, along with our own people, form a united revolutionary Indochinese front. This unity has stabilized and strengthened the Indochinese revolution more than ever before. Our country is allied with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries--a very firm guarantee for our nation-building and national defense.

We must clearly perceive all these fundamental advantages and must resolutely overcome the great difficulties facing our country's revolution as a result of our backward, predominantly small-scale production economy. This type of economy has greatly hampered our reform and socialist building activities--as correctly predicted by Lenin. The difficulties also result from the serious consequences of more than 30 years of protracted, fierce war caused by colonialists and neo-colonialists and from the Beijing expansionists' pervasive threats of war. This difficult situation has been further aggravated by our shortcomings in the field of economic and social management. While doing our best to overcome the objective difficulties caused by our enemies and natural calamities, we must also strive to remedy the serious organizational and managerial shortcomings and resolutely overcome the negative manifestations in society, in building our national economy and in our people's daily lives.

Our country's revolution has been carried out correctly in accordance with a correct policy. The following general policy for a new stage of our country's revolution has been expounded in the 4th Party Congress resolution: firmly grasp the dictatorship of the proletariat; develop the laboring people's right to collective mastery; simultaneously carry out three revolutions, the production relations revolution, the scientific and technological revolution and the ideological and cultural revolution, with the scientific and technological revolution as the kingpin; boost socialist industrialization, the major task for the period of transition to socialism; build a system of socialist collective mastery; build large-scale socialist production; build a new culture and new-type socialist men; eliminate the system of "exploitation of man by man"; do away with poverty and backwardness; constantly heighten vigilance, consolidate national defense and maintain public security and social order; successfully build the socialist Vietnamese fatherland into a peaceful, independent, reunified and socialist country; and positively contribute to the world peoples' struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

This general policy has been clearly expounded by our party in many resolutions of the Party Central Committee, the Political Bureau and the Council of Ministers, especially in the resolutions concerning the national situation and urgent tasks, agriculture, industry, consumer goods production, goods circulation and distribution and so forth. We must correctly carry out these resolutions so as to further improve our economic production and our social conditions, which will serve as a firm basis for vigorously boosting our nation-building and national defense potential. To successfully carry out our nation-building and national defense tasks, we must further strengthen party leadership, increase the efficiency of the managerial activities of the state of the dictatorship of the proletariat and enhance the masses' creativity and positive factors on the basis of the spirit of socialist collective mastery.

We must better grasp our country's actual situation, further our studies of Marxist-Leninist principles regarding socialist revolution, especially those that must be applied during the period of transition to socialism so as to further concretize our party's policies for each revolutionary stage in accordance with social developments. We must help all party members and the masses firmly grasp the party's major viewpoints on the present period of our country's revolution, including on coordinating socialist building and national defense, economic construction and consolidation of national defense, socialist transformation and socialist building; coordinating and simultaneously carrying out the three revolutions; firmly grasping the dictatorship of the proletariat; developing the laboring people's right to collective mastery; and so forth. We must overcome such shortcomings as separating economic construction from national defense, and socialist transformation from socialist building, carrying out the three revolutions separately, loosening our grasp on the dictatorship of the proletariat, slackening the struggle between the two paths, encroaching on the people's right to collective mastery, and so forth. We must achieve better unity in thinking and action among cadres and party members and better enforce party discipline so as to achieve unity of action throughout the party. This is a prerequisite to help further strengthen unity in society, create conditions for increasing the managerial efficiency of the socialist state and further develop the great strength of our entire people in nation-building and national defense.

The dictatorship of the proletariat is a very powerful tool of our country's revolution in nation-building and national defense. We must do our best to strengthen it and increase its impact on economic organization and management, social management, consolidation of national defense and maintenance of political security, public security and social order throughout the country. Loosening our grasp on the dictatorship of the proletariat, and thus decreasing its effectiveness, is highly detrimental to the interests of our fatherland and our people.

To remain strong, an administration must effectively and wholeheartedly serve the people, considering itself to be the people's servant, and cater to their interests. That administration must also organize and manage well economic and social activities in accordance with the vanguard party's policy. We must strive to build our country's socialist administration in that direction and increase its efficiency as our country's revolution continues.

To develop our people's creativity and initiative, we must help them fully exercise their right to be masters in every aspect of social life. To this end we must do a lot of work, including stepping up socialist transformation, boosting socialist economy, enhancing socialist democracy while abiding by the SRV Constitution, intensifying political indoctrination and striving to greatly improve the people's material and spiritual life.

The people's right to be masters depends to a large extent on the ethical standard and capability of party cadres, especially leading ones, within the party and state organs. If these cadres properly carry out Uncle Ho's teaching, "work as the people's servants," our people will have a better chance to become true masters of their state. This valuable experience has been gained in those areas where cadres have carried out well Uncle Ho's Testament. We must further disseminate this splendid experience in all sectors, localities and installations countrywide. Of course, to protect our people's right to be masters, we must also resolutely punish counter-revolutionaries, wicked elements guilty of theft and bribery as well as those grossly encroaching on socialist property and the laboring people's legitimate interests.

Although many difficulties remain in our nation-building and in the defense of our socialist fatherland, the prospects of accomplishment are favorable. Developing the great achievements they have scored over the past 35 years of our country's revolution and correctly implementing the party and state line and policies, our people certainly will overcome the existing difficulties and make great progress in building socialism and defending their great socialist fatherland.

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