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From its foundation on September 2, 1945, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam was faced with innumerable difficulties. Hardly had the terrible famine of 1945 ended when floodings and drought hit the country. 95% of the population were still illiterate. And under the cover of the British troops who came to disarm the Japanese fascists the French colonialists staged a comeback to Viet Nam, creating hostilities in Saigon on September 23, 1945 which soon spread to the provinces in Nam Bo (South Viet Nam) and South Central Viet Nam.

In these circumstances, the revolutionary power launched a nation-wide movement to wipe out famine, illiteracy and foreign aggression.

On September 3, 1945, the Council of Ministers opened a campaign to boost production and combat famine. Five days later, President Ho Chi Minh decreed the organization of popular education. Meanwhile the Government ordered a 25 per cent reduction of land rents for the peasants, the protection of the workers' rights in their relations with employers, and put into effect the 8-hour work-day.

The directive on "the resistance to aggression and national construction" issued by the Central Committee of the Party on November 25, 1945 defined the urgent task of the entire Party and people at that time. It was "to consolidate power, struggle against the French colonialist aggressors, eliminate traitors and improve the people's living standard." The Vietnamese people turned to a protracted and hard but inevitably victorious resistance.

To realize and develop the people's right to be masters of the country, the elections to the first General Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam were held on January 6, 1946 and the first Constitution of the DRVN was adopted on November 9, 1946. The national united front was broadened with the foundation in May 1946 of the Viet Nam National League (Lien Viet).

As a result of the French colonialists' provocative acts, the nation-wide resistance of Viet Nam was launched on December 19, 1946.

In Autumn-Winter 1947, the Vietnamese armed forces and people smashed an attack mounted by the French aggressors on the Viet Bac base, putting an end to the defensive stage of the resistance. The struggle for national salvation passed into a period when the Vietnamese people actively contended with the enemy.

Guerilla warfare extended to the whole country and the three categories of armed forces (regular, regional and guerilla forces) were developed.

In winter 1950, the Vietnamese armed forces and people launched a big operation close to the Viet Nam - China border, wiping out an important force of the enemy and expanding and consolidating the Viet Bac base, thus linking Viet Nam with other countries in the socialist camp.

In early 1953, in face of the French colonialists' military, economic and political difficulties caused by the protracted war in Indochina, the US imperialists — who had been defeated in Korea — sought to interfere more deeply into this peninsula. The Navarre plan which aimed at winning back the initiative in the strategic field, was actually an American plan. The people's war, however, which developed in Winter 1953 - Spring 1954 over the whole country — including enemy-controlled towns and cities — culminated with the victory of Dien Bien Phu. In this way the Navarre plan was smashed and the success of the Geneva Conference was ensured.