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Ho Chi Minh  
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Policies of Communist States

Soviet Comments Concerning Vietnam  
June 22, 1949

...On September 2, 1945, Ho Chi Minh, the leader of the movement for the people's liberation, proclaimed the existence of the Vietnam Republic....

On September 23, 1945, the French imperialists started a war against the new republic. The maturity of the Vietnam people was forged in their battle for freedom. Facing an army armed to the teeth, the Vietnam people not only managed to win a number of remarkable victories but they also achieved great success in building a democratic state....

The French imperialists are spending more than \$1,000,000 for war every day. This is how dearly the colonial adventure of the "200 families" is costing the French.

Opium and vodka were widely cultivated by French "civilization." Eighty percent of the population could neither read nor write. The democratic government of Vietnam has actively tackled the complex problem of popular education.

A special administration for popular education was formed on September 8, 1945, six days after the proclamation of the republic. Within three years, more than 6,500,000 persons in north and central Vietnam became literate, having learned to read and write....

The government of Ho Chi Minh has put many other democratic measures into practice: it introduced a national currency, reduced the peasant rental fees by one-half, worked out a labor code for the workers, expanded the school systems, etc.

When they launched the campaign, the French colonizers boasted: "We need two months to conquer Vietnam." They have been waging this criminal war for more than three years, and now they no longer dream of a speedy victory....

The French colonizers are gambling on two chances. One of these is a split in the Vietnam national liberation movement. With this end in view, they formed and officially recognized a "government" headed by Bao Dai, the former Emperor of Annam....

The second gamble of the French colonizers is the chance of American aid. The imperialist circles of the USA have never concealed their interest in Vietnam. This interest has become especially acute today. Indo-China was recently visited by the arch reactionary Bullitt and by Senator George Malone. The Americans are tempted not only by the wealth of the country; they are primarily attracted by the strategic position of Vietnam.

MacDonald, the general commissioner of the United Kingdom in southeastern Asia, recently called a conference at Delhi, the capital of India, where a plan for the struggle against the national liberation movement was discussed. British representatives and American "observers" participated in this conference.

Speaking for the English government, MacDonald declared flatly that the "situation he confronted today in Asia makes it necessary, after the recent events in China, to take immediate steps for preventing a further growth in the national liberation movement, which more and more threatens the interests of England and the USA."

According to the ideas of the Anglo-American aggressors, this task is to be solved by a military bloc of countries located in the vicinity of the Pacific and Indian oceans -- a twin of the North Atlantic bloc.

Apparently, not the least role in this system has been reserved for the puppet "government" formed with the blessings of the Americans. According to the New York Times, the USA "hopes that the new state headed by Bao Dai will become an anti-communist bastion."

But the people of Vietnam cannot be broken. The will of the peoples and their aspirations for freedom and independence are stronger than the weapons of the imperialists.

Source: Excerpts from "Struggling Vietnam," Literaturnaya Gazeta, June 22, 1949, translated in Soviet Press Translations, IV, (1949), pp. 486-487.