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ANTI-U.S. RESISTANCE REGARDED AS A DUTY

[Article by Tran Huy Lieu: "The Troops and People of Vietnam Have the Right and Duty to Repel U.S. Aggression in any Part of the Vietnamese Territory"; Hanoi, Nghien Cuu Lich Su, Vietnamese, January 1969, pp 1,2]

The point of whether the troops and people of Vietnam have the right and duty to repel U.S. aggression on their own soil is so obvious that it hardly constitutes a sensible subject of discussion. For American imperialists, however, these most savage, most dishonest, and most stupid people, it is a genuine question which must be elucidated.

History has shown that the Vietnamese soil is one. From the Sino-Vietnamese border in the North to Cape Ca Mau people live on the same soil, speak the same language, and have the same customs and culture. For thousands of years they have built their nation and defended it against invasion. They have had a common history. After the successful August revolution of 1945, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam comprized the entire land with a population of over 30 million. This is a truth, a historical fact which nobody dares deny. American imperialists with their secret intention of dividing our country permanently and transforming the South into a neo-colony and a military base have organized their followers into a rebel machinery, and have instituted the so-called Republic of Vietnam, South of the 17th parallel. They have divided our Fatherland into two separate countries, disrupting the normal relations between people of the two regions. Following U.S. imperialists, their puppets in the South have accused the North of aggression against the South, regarding the mutual assistance of people in the country as aggression. Let us review

the history of foreign invasions in our country starting from the time of the two Trung Sisters who raised the flag of revolution and liberated 60 cities and towns in our country. Wherever there were invaders, there would the people flock and fight. Ngo Quyen disbanded the Nam Han troops while Le Hoan defeated the Tong troops. As soon as an enemy sets foot in some part of our territory he violates the territory of our entire nation. Ly Thuong Kiet's line has pointed out: "The land of the Southern Kingdom is for the Southern King" meaning that the territory of a country cannot be violated, and that invaders will be repelled by the people. Under the Tran dynasty the Dien Hong Council including delegates of the people, and before that the council of the troops at Binh Than representing the people, have upheld the unity of our people, one mind, one heart, in repelling invaders.

The Great Report to the Ngo Dynasty by Nguyen Trai put much stress on "the division of the land and the nation", the "independence won by the Dinh, Le, Ly, and Tran dynasties" and "on the regained strength and happiness of the nation, the everlasting peace in prospect and the revenge accomplished." When invaders of the Thanh family marched on the capital, Thang Long City, Nguyen Hue recruited men from Phu Xuan and went up North, gathering on the way men from Nghe An, and finally won the famous battle of Dong Da. We need not go so far back for such examples. In 1858 when the French attacked Da Nang, starting the series of wars against Vietnam, a heroic patriot Pham Van Nghi, head of education in Nam Dinh, recruited 300 volunteer troops to go to Hue and repel the invaders. More recently when the French started the crisis in the South, on 23 September 1945, our people including regular troops and volunteers of the North went South, determined to fight the enemy and preserve every inch of land of the ancestors, and once more keep the country free from aggressors. These examples taken from history show us only too well that at all times, as soon as our nation is threatened by invaders our people regardless of social conditions, be they from the North or South, would unite to fight and defeat the invaders. This is both a duty and a beautiful tradition of our country.

Now, are U.S. imperialists taking advantage of the 1954 Geneva Conference to try to divide our country permanently? Obviously the Geneva agreements were only temporary measures. The parallel separating the troops cannot be considered as a political or territorial boundary. It cannot definitely cut our country into two separate states. In addition section seven of the last part of the agreements says: "Regarding the state of Vietnam a general election will be held in July 1956 to decide of the political situation taking into account the independence, unity, and territorial integrity of the country..." Indeed U.S. imperialists have violated the Geneva agreements by preventing our people from building an independent, peaceful, unified, and prosperous Vietnam. We respect the decisions of the Geneva Conference. Enforcing the Geneva agreements means upholding our right to independence and territorial sovereignty. It means then ensuring the independence of the people of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

Are U.S. imperialists trying to use the slogan of war against communism to cut our nation into two parts and cause domestic conflicts between brothers of a same country? International law has defined very clearly that the regime of each country should be determined by its people without outside interference. The people of Vietnam have never submitted themselves to any feudal tribes from the North, be they the Han, Duong, Tong, Nguyen, Minh, or Thanh. They have overthrown the semi-feudal colonialism set up by the French. Today they have destroyed the neo-colonialism set up by U.S. imperialists in South Vietnam. The people of Vietnam are struggling to establish a regime where no oppression and no exploitation between man and man could exist. This is the aspiration and force of all progressive people. With all their massive weapons U.S. imperialists cannot hope to establish any inhuman regime in Vietnam. They cannot upset the deep-rooted determination of the people of Vietnam from North to South to emancipate themselves, and to regain independence and unity of their nation.

It seems too elementary that such a notion as for the Vietnamese people to defend their soil wherever it happens to be threatened should be deliberated upon! This soil being one every man is bound to defend it.

It is quite unnecessary to repeat that our people have come from the same ancestors sharing the same history, loving each other just as "the red silk covering the antique table", and suffering together just as the organs of a same body.

It is sadly ironical that we have to hear aggressors from the other side of the Pacific Ocean claim that they have come to rescue the South from the aggressive acts of the North when they have come to ravage our land.

"All-out effort for the front line" means that we have to deploy all our capabilities to repel and defeat U.S. aggressors. Such labels as "front line" and "rear line" bear no connotation of territorial division, but are reminders of responsibilities assigned to particular segments of the population united in the same struggle for national salvation.

Obviously anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation is a sacred duty of each citizen. There is no other duty beyond this one. There is no firmer principle. We do not have to question ourselves whether anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation takes place in the North or South, against the war of destruction or aggression. Let us repeat Uncle Ho's call on 3 November 1968: "If only one aggressor is left on our soil we have to go on and fight, and get rid of him." "Where the fighting goes on, there we will rally" means that where there is war there will we go and fight. This is a duty of every citizen at this time.

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