

September 5, 1978

Speech made by Pham Van Dong

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Summary:

Pham Van Dong speaks on the war against Pol Pot and Ieng Sary, the issue of the Hoa people in Vietnam, and border disputes with China.

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The enclosed communication, dated 5 September 1978, is transmitted to the permanent missions of the States Members of the United Nations at the request of the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Viet Nam to the United Nations.

5 September 1978



AN THUONG TRU CONG HOA XA HOI CHU NGHIA VIET NAM
TAI LIEN HIEP QUOC

Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
to the United Nations
20 Waterside Plaza New York, N.Y. 10010
(212) 685-8001

New York, Sept, 5, 1978

Mr. Secretary General

I have the honour to transmit to You herewith an excerpt from the speech recently made by H.E. Mr. PHAM VAN DONG, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on occasion of the celebration of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, referring to the relations between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Democratic Kampuchea, and between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the People's Republic of China.

I shall be very grateful if Your Excellency would have this part of the speech circulated by the Secretariat as an official document to all Permanent Missions and Observers' Offices to the United Nations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Pham Duong", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

PHAM DUONG

Charge d'Affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of
the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary General
of the United Nations
U.N. Headquarters
New York

EXCERPT FROM THE SPEECH
MADE BY H.E. MR. PHAM VAN DONG, PRIME MINISTER OF
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM ON THE OCCASION
OF CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF S.R.V.N.

(Sept.1st, 1978)

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ON THE WAR BEING CONDUCTED BY THE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY
POLPOT - IENG SARY CLIQUE IN THE SOUTH-WESTERN BORDER
OF OUR COUNTRY

As everybody knows, with the Vietnamese people's disinterested support and assistance, the Kampuchean people's heroic war of resistance was crowned with great victory on April 17, 1975. But immediately after that, the counter-revolutionary PolPot-Ieng Sary clique pursued in Kampuchea an extremely cruel policy against all strata of Kampuchean people; repressing and massacring in an extremely savage manner any one who was considered "unloyal" to them. They have turned the whole of Kampuchea into a hell on earth, a gigantic concentration camp, in which all elementary human rights, all ordinary activities of a society, all activities of family life, and all cultural and religious activities, are abolished. Broad sections of world public opinion have been energetically condemning this policy of genocide the victims of which are none other than the Kampuchean people themselves. The reactionary forces in the Peking ruling circles have long found in the counter-revolutionary Pol Pot - Ieng Sary clique a very suitable instrument for

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carrying out its great-nation expansionist scheme in this region, first against Viet Nam. The more widely and strongly the domestic policy of the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary clique is opposed by all strata of the Kampuchean people, the more deeply they plunge, with Peking's support and assistance in all fields, into border conflicts with neighbour countries, particularly Viet Nam. They have unleashed a war of aggression against Viet Nam, destroying villages and hamlets, plundering property and massacring the Vietnamese people by brutal methods and means rarely seen in history.

The reactionary forces among Peking's ruling circles are using the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary counter revolutionary clique as shock troops to start a war of aggression along the South-Western border of our country in an attempt to inflict big losses on the Vietnamese people, to the construction and defence of socialist Viet Nam and to our international prestige.

Although they have sustained serious defeats, they are frenziedly continuing the war, refusing to give a positive response to the fair and reasonable February 5, 1978 Statement issued by our Government.

It is necessary to deeply realize that this utterly unjust war against Viet Nam also runs counter to the interests of the Kampuchean people. No wonder that the Kampuchean people of all walks of life, including part of the Kampuchean armed forces and political organisations of "Democratic Kampuchea" are rising up in increasingly strong opposition. For all the bloody suppression by the Phnom Penh fascist regime, the just, patriotic and revolutionary struggle of the Kampuchean people for the vital interests of each individual as well as of the Kampuchean nation, and for the great revolutionary cause of the Kampuchean people, has not ceased to expand and develop. In such a situation, the Phnom Penh counter-revolutionary clique are feverishly seeking ways to save themselves by intensifying the war against Viet Nam, and at the same time, fabricate the tall tale of "Vietnamese intervention". But from their own experience, the Kampuchean people have seen more clearly the true nature of the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary clique, and they are more determined to rise up and push ahead with their just and bound-to-be victorious struggle.

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For our part, to defend our people's lives and property, to firmly defend the Western border of our Motherland we are resolved to fight back all adventurous acts by any enemy who violates our sacred territory.

We are perseveringly striving for a correct solution to the relations between the two countries on the basis of our Government's February 5, 1978 Statement.

We are convinced that in the end, justice will prevail, and the genuine friendship between the Vietnamese and the Kampuchean peoples will prevail.

ON THE DISTURBANCES AROUND THE HOA PEOPLE QUESTION

Our people and world public opinion have been informed rather adequately of these disturbances. It should be recalled that while Peking is the mastermind in enticing, coercing and organizing tens of thousands of Hoa people in Viet Nam to leave for China by various ways (by land and by sea), it is also Peking that has invented the story that "Viet Nam ostracizes, persecutes and expels Hoa people".

In provoking this event, Peking wants to kill at least two birds with one stone:

- Unilaterally cutting off all economic aid and withdrawing all Chinese specialists, unilaterally cancelling agreements signed between the two governments. These are very arrogant and crude actions from the legal and moral points of view.

- Creating difficulties and complexities to the economic and political life in many parts of our country. Why did Peking use all possible means to get tens of thousands of Hoa people, who were living peacefully in Viet Nam, to leave for China ? What for ? Now, it wants to drive part of these people back to Viet Nam ! We must see through China's dark and perfidious scheme in this wrongdoing.

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At our proposal, the Chinese side agreed to sit down for negotiations, but not with the goodwill to solve the problem : the disturbances at the Bac Luan Bridge, and right in Ha Noi, our Capital City, and recently, the criminal acts committed by the Chinese side at Huu Nghi (Friendship) Gate, in the very course of the negotiations between the two sides, are eloquent proofs of Peking's hostile policy toward our people.

ON THE INCIDENTS AT THE VIET NAM - CHINA BORDER

Those who engineer the war on the South-Western border of our country as well as the disturbances around the Hoa people question, are also those who are creating tension along the Viet Nam - China border.

They organized many kinds of people to cross the border illegally, they used armed forces to encroach upon our border, used military aircraft to violate our air space, and naval crafts to encroach upon Viet Nam's territorial waters, and built fortifications and concentrated their armed forces directed against Viet Nam.

For our part, we always endeavour to turn the border between the two countries into one of peace and friendship. It is starkly clear, however, that Peking is feverishly trying to turn many border areas of the two countries into places where it can at any time commit acts of hostility and sabotage against Viet Nam. These are designs fraught with grave dangers and over which we must always be vigilant.

Alongside these actions, Peking recently whipped up an anti-Viet Nam psychosis among the Chinese people, fabricated the absurd stories of "Viet Nam ostracizing the Hoa people", "opposing China", and so on...

In its diplomatic activities, Peking tried by all possible means to carry out an anti-Viet Nam propaganda, and distort the facts about incidents between the two countries.

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Nonetheless, our own experiences have proved that truth and justice have a very great, very strong and lasting persuasive force. On this front, too, reason and justice will prevail !

I have just spoken to you, compatriots, about some serious events to substantiate a very hard fact :

For a long time now, Peking has nurtured big-nation expansionist and great-power hegemonistic ambitions toward our country and other countries in this region. Right from 1975, when our people won complete victory in the war against the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen in South Viet Nam, Peking has considered the birth of a peaceful, independent, unified and socialist Viet Nam as an obstacle to its expansionist design in South-East Asia. For this reason they promptly seized the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary reactionary clique and used it as a tool to wage a war on the South-Western border of our country. Since then, they have provoked a series of incidents which I have just related.

Very obviously, running counter to the Chinese people's interests, the reactionary forces among the Peking rulers are pursuing a hostile policy against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. This, we, Vietnamese people, cannot tolerate. We are determined to struggle against encroachments upon our independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity to defend our people's revolutionary gains, and defend their peaceful labour and socialist cause.

On the other hand, we do not in the least confuse the reactionary forces in the Peking ruling circles with the Chinese people, as well as genuine Chinese revolutionaries. With regard to the Chinese people, President Ho Chi Minh always taught us to strive to strengthen the friendship between those who he said are "both comrades and brothers". We have faithfully acted upon Uncle Ho's teachings.

Today, after Peking has of its own will cut off all aid to our country and called back all Chinese experts from Viet Nam, we recall with

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even deeper sentiments the great friendship and precious assistance given our people by the people of China. From the bottom of our hearts, we express our profound and heartfelt thanks to the Chinese people and the Chinese experts. While upholding our will to struggle against the Chinese side's hostile schemes and actions, we still persist in our efforts aimed to settle the disputes between the two sides through negotiations in order to find an appropriate solution in keeping with the interests and traditional friendship between the two peoples.

The Vietnamese people are waging a justice-radiating struggle the sacred character of which is clearly, correctly and deeply understood by every Vietnamese, men and women, old and young. The calm, firm and self-confident attitude of our people throughout the country eloquently testifies to the invincible strength of a valiant people who have fought and won victory.

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