

# Text of Soviet Statement on Vietnam

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, May 11—Following, as translated by The New York Times, is the text of a statement on Vietnam by the Soviet Government, as distributed today by Tass, the official press agency:

The Government of the United States has announced a new expansion of its aggressive actions in Vietnam that will lead to further complication of the situation in Southeast Asia and is fraught with serious consequences for international peace and security.

In a declaration on May 8 the President of the United States announced that he had given orders to mine the entrances to North Vietnamese ports to prevent access of ships to them, to increase the bombing of the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and, particularly, to strike from the air at railroads and other communications.

The United States is thus attempting to disrupt existing economic, commercial and other relations between the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and other states, to deprive the Democratic Republic of Vietnam of the possibility of receiving aid for the people of its country to repel American aggression, as well as food and other goods for supplying its civilian population.

No matter what false pretexts are used to mask the adventurist actions of the American armed forces in Vietnam, the real purpose of these actions is clear. It is not to "save the United States from humiliation," but to save the notorious policy of "Vietnamization," which has obviously failed. It is not to enable the Vietnamese to settle their affairs through negotiation, but to extend American military support to the antipopular puppet regime in Saigon.

Intensification of the bombings of the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and Washington's attempts single handedly to impose its own rules of international navigation cannot but arouse indignation

and strong censure. They demonstrate once again to the whole world the piratical nature of the war that the United States has unleashed and pursued for many years against the Vietnamese people.

## Many Others Affected

One aggressive action has led to other, still more dangerous actions. As a result, the war has assumed a character affecting to an ever greater degree the interests of many countries and peoples.

The mining of the approaches to the ports of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and attempts to interfere with access of foreign ships to its territorial and inland waters are creating a direct threat to the ships and to the lives of seamen of many states that are transporting cargoes for the population of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

No one has given the United States the right to restrict anyone's freedom of navigation on the high seas. The measures taken by the United States are a gross violation of the generally recognized principle of freedom of navigation—ignoring the fact that the Geneva conventions of 1958, affirming that principle, bear, alongside other signatures, the one of the United States of America.

The actions of the United States threatening the freedom of navigation and the safety of Soviet and other ships engaged in navigation off the coasts of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam are being viewed in the Soviet Union as inadmissible. The Soviet Union will draw appropriate conclusions from this. All responsibility for the possible consequences of these illegal actions will be borne by the Government of the United States.

By violating the Geneva conventions, the United States has demonstrated its contempt for one of the basic requirements of international law: the observance by states of commitments assumed under international treaties.

This is a dangerous and slippery road. It can lead only to further complication of the international situation and to lawlessness in international relations.

## 'What Would This Lead To?'

And if in response to the unilateral actions of the United States threatening the legitimate interests of a number of states and the safety of their citizens, these states were to act the way the United States is now acting in Vietnam, what would this lead to?

The problems of Indochina cannot be resolved, and the will of the Vietnamese people fighting for freedom and independence cannot be broken, by further escalation of aggressive actions. The actions being taken by the United States can only serve to drag out the conflict and to continue the bloodshed, and will inevitably involve further loss of life and destruction.

The only realistic way of resolving the Vietnamese problem is to respect the right of the Vietnamese people to determine its destiny without outside interference and pressure. If the United States is really ready to do so, it should return to the negotiating table in Paris.

The Soviet Government resolutely insists that the steps taken by the United States to blockade the coast and to disrupt the land communications of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam be canceled without delay, that the United States cease its acts of aggression against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and that the right to freedom of international navigation and commerce be respected. The Soviet Government is confident that this point of view is being shared by the governments and peoples of all peace-loving states.

The Soviet people, true to the principles of socialist internationalism, is in solidarity with the struggle of the heroic Vietnamese people. It has rendered and will continue to render the necessary support.

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