

# Hanoi Asserts Right To Battle the U.S. In North or South

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North Vietnam declared today that "every Vietnamese citizen has the right and duty to fight the American aggressor anywhere on Vietnamese territory."

This statement, contained in a Government communiqué, followed by a day a similar pronouncement from Peking that came close to acknowledging that North Vietnamese troops were fighting in the South. However, neither Hanoi nor Peking has yet explicitly made such an acknowledgment.

Accusing the United States of seeking to perpetuate "the partition of Vietnam" and of rehashing "shopworn contentions" that North Vietnam was invading the South, the Hanoi Government declared:

"Wherever there are U.S. aggressors on Vietnamese territory, all Vietnamese have the right and duty to fight against them to defend the independence and freedom of their fatherland."

"This," it added, "is the sacred and inalienable right to self-defense of the Vietnamese people, just as of all peoples

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# Hanoi Asserts Right to Fight U.S. in All Vietnam

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on earth."

The Peking statement, issued yesterday the the Chinese Foreign Ministry, also rejected the United States declaration that American air attacks on North Vietnam were a response to North Vietnamese invasion of the South.

Since the Vietnamese nation is a whole, the Chinese declared, "it is fully legitimate and a matter of course for the Vietnamese compatriots in the northern and southern parts of the country to support each other and jointly combat the aggressors."

In its communique, Hanoi called on the entire North Vietnamese "army and people to close their ranks to carry out with all their forces the testament" of their late President, Ho Chi Minh.

They were urged "to persist in and step up the resistance," to fight so that all United States forces would be withdrawn and the South Vietnamese Army and Government of President Nguyen Van Thieu toppled, "to liberate the South, defend and build the Socialist North, to proceed to the peaceful reunification of the country."

Denouncing what it described as the "new extremely serious move of war escalation" undertaken by the United States, the communique said that since last Thursday hundreds of American aircraft, among them B-52's and warships of the Seventh Fleet have launched unceasing attacks against North Vietnamese territory, including

the city of Vinh." North Vietnam reported attacks on Vinh yesterday but did not at the time mention the use of B-52's.

The Hanoi statement reiterated the North Vietnamese assertion that there was no understanding between North Vietnam and the United States at the time of the bombing halt in 1968 and said American leaders had fabricated this "myth" as a pretext for stepping up the war. The United States maintains that the unrestricted bombing of North Vietnam was halted in 1968 on the understanding that the North Vietnamese would not violate the demilitarized zone or shell major South Vietnamese cities.

Another North Vietnamese appeal to the people to step up the war against the United States and the South Vietnamese Government was reported today by the North Vietnamese press agency.

This was contained in a report on resolutions on the "patriotic fight and economic tasks for 1972" adopted at a recent meeting of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers, or Communist, party.

In the report, North Vietnam's leadership also outlined plans to raise the economy from a small-production basis to a large-scale basis.

The struggle in the military, political and diplomatic fields, the agency said, is entering a "crucial stage."

"We have advantageous conditions to advance our patriotic fight," the agency said, adding that the Central Committee meeting had stressed that while stepping up the war,

the Vietnamese should unite and coordinate closely with "the brotherly Laotian and Khmer armies and peoples."

The report said that the meeting decided to step up agricultural production and to "take agriculture quickly and steadily to large-scale socialist production." The plan calls for more agricultural goods for domestic needs and export, improvements in the management of cooperatives and the strengthening of socialist production relations in the countryside.

In calling for more capital construction, the Central Committee said North Vietnam should protect both the needs of the war front and the "urgent needs of the people's life." It added that active preparations should be made for raising capital construction on a large scale in the years to come.

The Central Committee advocated the intensification of long-term planning for the development of the economy and culture and the need to improve state management, "especially economic management." It emphasized the necessity of improving economic management to fulfill economic tasks and "turn the economy from small production to a large-scale socialist production."