



Tass via Associated Press

Before the banquet in Moscow, from the left: Vo Thuk Dong, North Vietnamese Ambassador to Moscow; Leonid I. Brezhnev, Soviet Communist chief; Le Duc Tho, North Vietnamese adviser, at the peace talks; Kuang Minh, Vietcong envoy in Moscow; Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko of the Soviet Union and Konstantin F. Katushev, a secretary of the Soviet Communist party's central committee.

## Excerpts From Brezhnev's Address

*Following, as distributed in English by Tass, the official Soviet press agency, are excerpts from a speech delivered yesterday by Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Communist party chief, at a dinner in honor of the North Vietnamese negotiators in Paris:*

Dear Comrade Le Duc Tho, dear Comrade Nguyen Duy Trinh, dear comrades and friends:

The decisive step toward complete restoration of peace in Vietnam has been made. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam resumes the constructive work. It now has an opportunity to concentrate its efforts on socialist construction, and new prospects implementing the behests of President Ho Cho Minh—for creating a peaceful, united democratic Vietnam — have opened.

A road for peaceful democratic development, for upholding true independence and for conducting the policy of national concord and unification opens before South Vietnam.

More favorable conditions are created for ending the bloodshed in Laos and Cambodia.

The struggle to end the war in Vietnam is one of the most important aspects of our foreign policy, of the peace program advanced by the 24th Congress of the Communist party of the Soviet Union. And now the end is put to the war. One of the most dangerous, to be more precise, the most dangerous

seat of war in the world is being liquidated.

Over many years, this war was used by the forces of aggression and reaction to intensify international tensions, to step up the arms race. This war created obstacles for establishing wide international cooperation.

New possibilities for easing tensions, for consolidating security and world peace open now. It can be expected that the political settlement in Vietnam will have a positive effect on the relations among the states that were involved in one way or another in the events in Indochina. Moreover, this shows that it is possible to find a peaceful and just solution of other conflicts, to liquidate the seats of war danger that exist so far, above all in the Middle East, since the situation in that area is fraught with a great threat to the cause of peace.

It is recognized by all that the political climate in Europe has considerably improved of late. The beginning was set to turning from tensions and confrontations to business cooperation among European states with different social systems. A great role in all this has been played by the policy of our country, the common policy of the fraternal socialist countries.

Following relaxation in Europe, a possibility opens now for easing tensions in another vast area, in Asia, where

conflagrations continued over the past decades.

Striving for lasting peace, we attach the decisive importance to consolidating further unity, cohesion and joint action of the socialist countries. This was important yesterday, during the Vietnam war, and this is not less important today, when it is necessary to consolidate the peace achieved and to advance further in fulfilling the expectations of the peoples.

The strengthening of unity and cohesion of the socialist countries is our principled line. It has nothing in common with the policy of blocs, of creating exclusive military groupings directed against the interests of other states. Our unity, as before, has the purpose to completely serve the cooperation of all the peoples, peace and progress of mankind.

Comrades, the Paris agreement has come into force, the Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers party and the Government of the D.R.V., The South Vietnam National Liberation Front and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam have solemnly declared that they will strictly observe all its provisions. The peoples expect that other parties to the agreement will honor and completely observe the commitments assumed. An important role in this is to be played by the coming international conference, in which the Soviet Union will take an active part.

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