

## Vietnam Congress Inaugurates Strategy For Peace and Reconstruction

Dec. 17 (NSIPS) — The Vietnam Workers Party (VWP) opened its fourth party congress in Hanoi Dec. 13 after a 16-year postponement and following the end of the Vietnam war. Thirty-eight foreign delegations and 1,008 Vietnamese delegates met in the Ba Dinh convention center to deliberate on the issues facing the international communist movement and the reconstruction of a Vietnam now unified but still suffering from the devastation of 30 years of war. Vietnamese President Ton Duc Thang opened the congress, welcoming the foreign delegations from fraternal socialist countries and progressive governments. Thang's opening remarks were followed by a political report presented by Party Secretary General Le Duan. It mapped out a "new direction" for development and reconstruction, with extensive plans for expansion of industry and agriculture and the establishment of economic relations with foreign socialist as well as capitalist countries.

The VWP draft political report emphasizes the role the party will play to create a "united front" of socialist countries against "U.S. imperialism", a clear signal that Vietnam will actively seek to promote a reconciliation between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. Although China failed to send a delegation following widespread speculation that a high-level delegation would be dispatched, the Soviet Union sent a delegation led by Politburo member Mikhail Suslov who held private discussions with Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong, Le Duan, and other senior party leaders. Suslov is also expected to confer with Communist Party delegations from Japan, India, and Sri Lanka.

Vietnamese leaders declared at the conference that they will seek to strengthen "special relations" among the communist states of Indochina to advance economic development and political solidarity. The Laotian delegation was led by Laotian Prime Minister Kaysone Phomvihane. Chinese-allied Cambodia failed to send a delegation.

In the face of U.S. efforts to revive the South East Asian Treaty Organization, the political report presents an open call to Southeast Asian nations pledging to aid their efforts to attain "national independence, democracy, peace, and genuine neutrality without foreign military bases and troops on their soil; to stand ready to establish and develop relations of friendship and cooperation."

### *"Setting a New Direction"*

Party Secretary General Le Duan, in a six-hour address, presented the Central Committee's draft political report on the implementation of the current five-year plan. The 40-page document has been the center of dis-

cussions at local conferences throughout the country in preparation for the congress and calls for "setting a new direction" for post-war development of Vietnam.

The focal point of Le Duan's presentation was the role science and technology must have transforming a "decentralized economy of small-scale production to large-scale production without going through the capitalist state of development." This, stated Le Duan, is embodied in the concept of the "triple revolution." This includes the "revolution of productive relations, the scientific and technological revolution, and the cultural and ideological revolution with the scientific and technical revolution as the keystone in order to build step by step the system of socialist collectivity and a new socialist man."

With the role of science and technology as its underlying premise, the document expands upon the role of the northern part of the country with its industrial raw materials and heavy industry and the south, with its vast agricultural potential, in a new comprehensive 1976-80 five-year development plan. Crucial to this effect will be a reorganization of the government and upgrading of party cadre to facilitate the organization and mobilization of the country's workforce, especially emphasizing the initiative of the individual workers and peasants.

This task will be accompanied through the reorganization of the party and government to deal with the five-year plan particularly in the south where 30 years of war have left deep social scars on the population. The demobilization of the million-man Saigon regime's army, the tens of thousands of prostitutes and drug addicts, and refugees demands an understanding and qualities of leadership that are incompatible with "bureaucratic insensitivity" still prevalent in the government and party. The party will be upgraded and its membership expanded to include new members from the south.

In the south, where the worst effects of the war can still be felt with high unemployment and widespread devastation, the plan calls for the development of "New Economic Zones." "In the future, a target of more than one million people from Ho Chi Minh City will be completely settled into New Economic Zones," Nguyen Van Linh, part secretary for Ho Chi Minh City, told the congress. "The outskirts of Ho Chi Minh city," he added, "will be developed as a vast farm around the city to supply sufficient foodstuffs and vegetables to the city."

It is envisioned that agriculture will be developed in areas surrounding the urban and industrial centers where the construction of irrigation systems and application of modern agricultural technologies will increase the production of grains, industrial crops such as cotton and lead to the development of fisheries and an animal husbandry industry. The agricultural sector will therefore

produce for the local market as well as lead to the development of a flourishing food and agri-industry, yielding a supply for foreign exchange producing exports.

Industry will primarily be concentrated in the north where an industrial infrastructure now exists and in urban centers in the south. Although light industry will be promoted in the transitional period of the plan, it is seen as insufficient. "There are two tasks that are both fundamental and urgent. To ensure the minimum needs of the people's life while carrying out accumulation at the necessary tempo to build the material and technical bases of socialism." The political report asserts that a "great leap forward" in agriculture as well as industry will not be possible without augmenting "labor productivity." Here the task of industry will be located, to supply the tractors, earthmoving equipment, cement and steel required to expand irrigation and mechanization of agriculture and heavy industry.

To further this, Le Duan called for rapid expansion of trade and economic ties with all industrial nations; socialist and capitalist alike. The conference is reportedly to put forward the intensification of economic relations between Vietnam and Japan as a model for Western Europe and the United States. Japan is now a major trade partner of Vietnam and has negotiated its war debts in the form of multi-million dollar reconstruction aid and is participating in a variety of industrial projects.

This move by Vietnam towards the non-socialist west for economic cooperation and transfer of industrial technology, is a reminder to the United States of its obligation in "healing the wounds of war" as stipulated in Article 21 of the Paris Peace Accords. The Vietnamese have made informal negotiations with U.S. oil companies who held concessions under the old Saigon regime. British Petroleum, Aquitaine of France, and Norwegian and Japanese oil companies are now in active negotiations with Vietnam.

## Daily Political Report to Vietnam Congress

*Dec. 16 — The following are excerpts from the Draft Political Report to the Fourth Vietnam Workers Party Congress:*

### *Preamble*

The fourth party congress is held after our people's anti-U.S. war of resistance for national salvation has recorded total victory, the south has been liberated and our fatherland is independent and unified and is advancing toward socialism. The historical duties set forth by the third party congress have been fulfilled. Our glorious party — the party of the Vietnamese working class which was founded, led and trained by President Ho Chi Minh — has fulfilled its historic mission in an outstanding manner and is advancing toward its fourth congress with the big steps toward maturity and with organization (doij ngux) stronger and firmer than ever.

### *Part I: Great Victory, Historic Turning Point*

Mid-1954 to May 1975 was the period of the extremely glorious and diversified revolutionary struggle of the Vietnamese people. This was the period when our people in the entire country, under the leadership of our party, simultaneously carried out two strategic tasks — achieving the national people's democratic revolution throughout the country and carrying out the socialist revolution in the north.

### *Liberating the South Unifying the Fatherland*

1. After World War II, the world situation was changed greatly. The system of socialist countries was born; the national independence movement vigorously surged forward; the imperialist forces were seriously weakened; the United States became an international gendarme pursuing a counterrevolutionary global strategy. Waging the war of aggression against Vietnam; the U.S. imperialists attempted to impose

U.S.-style neocolonialism on our country, sabotage our people's cause of socialist revolution and at the same time check the national independence and socialist movement in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world. To carry out this scheme, the United States mobilized a very large military force and used numerous strategies, tactics and modern weapons coupled with several crafty diplomatic tricks.

2. Under the leadership of the party, our army and people fought extremely valiantly, successively defeating the U.S. strategies and advancing from one victory to another and ultimately to total victory...

With the total victory of the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance, the yoke of neocolonialist domination was broken forever in our country, and our fatherland became completely independent and unified. This victory foiled the biggest war effort mounted by the archimperialists since World War II, upset the global strategy of U.S. imperialism and drove it into an unprecedented difficult situation, limited and weakened the imperialist system, consolidated the outpost of socialism in Southeast Asia, expanded and strengthened the socialist system, and bolstered the strength and offensive position of the revolutionary forces in the world.

3. The great victory of the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance was a victory of the correct and clear-sighted leadership of our party; a victory in a struggle replete with difficulties, hardships and sacrifices, but an extremely courageous struggle of our people and army and tens of millions of patriotic compatriots in the south who set examples of heroism, displayed an indomitable spirit and persistently and continuously struggled for more than 30 years; a victory of the socialist regime in the north — the firm base area of the revolution in the