

A STEP TOWARD PEACE

Saturday, January 27, 1973, is a day of victory for the Vietnamese and American people. With the signing of the ceasefire, the Vietnamese have succeeded in ending direct military intervention in their country. We are a part of this victory—all of us who have marched, petitioned, voted and demonstrated against the war in the past ten years.

This Agreement on Ending the War is only one step towards lasting peace. We are still a long way from real peace in Indochina and peace in the world.

WHAT IS THE SITUATION NOW IN VIETNAM

There are two governments in South Vietnam: the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) and the Thieu government. Both will be trying to get the maximum political support in the coming months before elections are held throughout the South.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government (often called the Viet Cong by the press) now administers almost all of the countryside. This coalition of neutralists, nationalists, communists, and religious groups also has made large gains in the cities controlled by Thieu. Since their major military offensive in the spring of 1972, they have won the support of over five million new people, particularly in the An Loc and Quang Tri areas.

The Thieu government remains in power in Saigon only through U.S. aid, the army, and the secret police. Thieu has suspended freedom of the press, outlawed almost all political parties, and forbidden labor strikes and demonstrations—participation in any of these activities is punishable by death. He has currently imprisoned over 200,000 teachers, labor leaders, government officials, and workers who have been neutral in the political struggle. The fate of these neutralists will be a major issue in the coming months, since they are crucial to carrying out free elections.

WHAT WILL THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION DO NOW IN VIETNAM?

The U.S. government still has plans to try to control the political outcome in the South, despite the Agreement which specifies no foreign interference in the internal affairs of South Vietnam. Actions to prop up the Thieu government are continuing. In the last two months, the U.S. has given Thieu the third largest air force in the world, all paid for through U.S. taxes. There are plans to introduce 15,000 U.S. civilian advisors into the South who will train Vietnamese to use and service planes for a continuation of the war. U.S. businesses, rapidly moving into Saigon, will apply economic pressure in Thieu's favor.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

We must keep the U.S. military out of Indochina and stop plans for future economic or political interference. We support:

- Efforts to make the U.S. government abide by the terms and spirit of the Agreement.
- Reparations to all of Vietnam without condition.
- The release of all civilian prisoners in the southern part of Vietnam.
- Withdrawal of all U.S. bases and troops and the ending of all aid to repressive governments in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

All of this is possible. And it is possible, too, to change the conditions here at home. The Vietnamese people have taught us true strength is the determination of people to fight together for the control of their lives. We *can* end racism here. We *can* end the exploitation of women. And we *can* make the wealth of our country be used for all of us.

WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

Specifically, there are many things that we and our friends can do. We can:

- Support any efforts to cut off aid to the Thieu dictatorship.
- Help rebuild the Bach Mai Hospital, which was completely destroyed in the bombing raids on Hanoi. Any amount of money is welcome. Contributions should be sent to:

Bach Mai Hospital Fund
857 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94133.

- Protest U.S. government attempts to deport South Vietnamese students in this country who have spoken out against the war. The State Department has demanded that seven Vietnamese students leave the country for Saigon, where they face imprisonment and death merely for speaking against the war. Letters of protest should be sent to the State Department, Washington, D.C.

THE AGREEMENT ON ENDING THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIETNAM

Here is a brief summary of all nine chapters of the Agreement signed January 27, 1973:

CHAPTER I

"The United States and all other countries respect the independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of Vietnam as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam."

CHAPTER II

An in place ceasefire—all parties remaining where they are located—shall begin on Jan. 27, 1973, throughout Vietnam.

The United States agrees to:

- Stop all military activities against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (the North).
- Discontinue its military involvement and intervention in the internal affairs of South Vietnam.
- Withdraw all troops, advisors, military personnel, arms, and war materiel within 60 days.
- Dismantle all military bases in South Vietnam within 60 days.

All other parties agree to:

- Stop all hostilities.
- Refuse new introductions of military equipment into South Vietnam, making only periodic replacements of armaments which have been destroyed, damaged, or used up. The replacement of weapons will be supervised by the Joint Military Commission of both South Vietnamese governments.

CHAPTER III

The return of captured military personnel on all sides shall be carried out simultaneously with U.S. troop withdrawals. The return of civilian prisoners in the South will be negotiated by the two South Vietnamese governments. Both parties will do their utmost to return civilian prisoners and reunite families within 90 days.

CHAPTER IV

"The South Vietnamese people shall decide themselves the political future of South Vietnam through genuinely free and democratic elections under international supervision. Foreign countries shall not impose any political tendency or personality on the South Vietnamese people."

Both the Thieu government and the Provisional Revolutionary Government agree to:

- Ensure the democratic liberties of the people, such as free speech, free press, freedom of meeting and carrying on political activities.
- Set up a National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord of three equal segments, the Provisional Revolutionary Government, the Thieu government and the neutralists. The major tasks of this National Council are to implement the provisions of this Agreement and organize the free and democratic elections throughout South Vietnam.

CHAPTER V

"The reunification of Vietnam shall be carried out step by step through peaceful means on the basis of discussions and agreements between North and South Vietnam without coercion, annexation, or foreign interference." The time for reunification will be agreed upon by both North and South Vietnam.

"The military demarcation line between the two zones at the 17th parallel is only provisional and not a political or territorial boundary," as provided for in the Geneva Accords of 1954. There will be open and free access across the provisional boundary.

CHAPTER VI

Several Commissions will be formed to implement the provisions of this agreement:

- **The Four Party Joint Military Commission** includes the U.S., the Thieu government, the Provisional Revolutionary Government, and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. It will implement all policies in this Agreement involving the four parties and disband in 60 days at the time of the total withdrawal of the United States. Its decisions must be unanimous.
- **The Two Part Joint Military Commission** includes both governments in the South. It will implement all policies that involve only these two parties. Its decisions must be unanimous.
- **The International Commission of Control and Supervision** includes Canada, Hungary, Indonesia, and Poland. It will supervise and mediate the activities of the other commissions. Its activities will end immediately after free elections are held throughout the South.

There will be an international conference within 30 days to help maintain the peace in Vietnam. This conference will include the members of all commissions and the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and France.

CHAPTER VII

Foreign countries shall put an end to all military activities in Laos and Cambodia and shall respect the neutrality of both countries. The people of Laos and Cambodia shall determine their own internal affairs without foreign interference.

CHAPTER VIII

The United States agrees to "contribute to healing the wounds of war and to postwar reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and throughout Indochina."

CHAPTER IX

All parties shall implement this agreement and its protocols.

