

GENERAL VO NGUYEN GIAP

**THE SOUTH VIETNAM PEOPLE
WILL WIN**

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**THE LIBERATION WAR
OF THE SOUTH VIETNAM PEOPLE
AGAINST THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS
AND THEIR HENCHMEN
WILL CERTAINLY WIN ***

* Article published in the **Nhan Dan** paper of July 19, 1964, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Agreements on Indo-China (July 20, 1954).

Ten years ago on July 20, 1954, following the great victory of our army and people on the Dien Bien Phu battlefield, the Geneva Agreements were signed, restoring peace in Indo-China, on the basis of respect for the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of our country, Vietnam, and of two friendly countries, Cambodia and Laos.

As laid down in the agreement, free general elections should be held throughout Vietnam two years after the armistice for the peaceful reunification of our country. To create every favourable condition for this work, the belligerent armies were provisionally regrouped respectively north and south of the 17th parallel and the administration of each zone undertook to ensure all democratic liberties for the people, at the same time not to accept weapons and military personnel from any country nor join any military alliance.

Ten years have elapsed since the Geneva Agreements were signed. During these ten years our people have successfully carried out socialist revolution and construction in the completely liberated North.

However, throughout these ten years the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen have done their utmost to sabotage the Geneva Agreements and unleashed a war to invade and sell out the south of our country. Thus, after fighting valiantly for ten years, making a great contribution to the victory of the first sacred resistance, our 14 million southern compatriots had again to rise up and wage a second sacred resistance against the U.S. imperialists and their stooges for independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, for the implementation of the Geneva Agreements and then for the reunification of the Fatherland.

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Agreements on Indo-China, and as the struggle for national reunification of our people throughout the country is ten years old, let us review the revolutionary path fraught with perilous obstacles but full of glorious successes of our people, and assess the situation, the great achievements scored as well as the impending heavy tasks, the difficulties as well as the factors of certain victory, in order to heighten further our hatred for the enemy and the confidence in the victory, the grim determination and iron will of the heroic Vietnamese nation resolute to overcome all difficulties and obstacles, to confront any sacrifice and hardship, to fight, to march forward, to shatter all schemes of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen and secure final victory.

I

The Geneva Agreements were a great victory of our people, the fruit of ten years of long and hard resistance, of nearly 100 years of national liberation struggle. This victory has safeguarded the gains of the August Revolution in the north of our country. It has helped the Vietnamese revolution in the North attain the socialist stage and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam become the first socialist country in South-East Asia.

For French and American imperialisms the Geneva Agreements were a most pitiful setback. They have put an end to the domination of the French colonialists in Indo-China. They have foiled the scheme of the U.S. imperialists to prolong and extend the war and turn the Indo-Chinese countries into U.S. new colonies and military bases. They were the bitterest defeat of the U.S. imperialists in South-East Asia after their disaster in the Chinese mainland and in Korea.

While the Indo-Chinese countries scored a great victory in their valiant and hard resistance and the

French Expeditionary Corps faced a grave danger U.S. imperialism made strenuous efforts to salvage the situation, but in the end it was forced together with its defeated ally to sit for negotiation to end the war. This came as no surprise to us and historical facts have given added proof that even when negotiating to reach an agreement, U.S. imperialism already schemed to sabotage it with a view to impairing the victories of the Indo-Chinese peoples and restricting its defeats to the utmost.

No sooner had the ink of the signatures on the Geneva Agreements dried than the U.S. imperialists set up the aggressive South-East Asia military bloc and brazenly put South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos under its protection. They schemed to consolidate further their strategic positions in South-East Asia while using this new aggressive bloc as a tool to carry on their war policy and curb the development of the national-liberation movement. *At utter variance with the provisions of the Geneva Agreements they plotted to continue their aggressive policy under the form of neo-colonialism with a view to turning South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos into their new-type colonies and military bases.* This dark and perfidious scheme came out clearly in the statements of the U.S. Government that the security of the U.S.A. was decided along the 17th parallel and the Vietnam-Laos border.

In the new strategic plan of the U.S. imperialists South Vietnam holds a position of utmost importance. This is precisely why soon after the armistice the

U.S.A. stopped all military aid to the French in Indo-China, ousted the latter from the South and rigged up the Ngo Dinh Diem administration entirely at its beck and call, hoping to use this subservient clique to suppress our compatriots' patriotic struggle in the South, rapidly *turn the South into a U.S. new-type colony and military base, and permanently partition our country.*

The U.S. imperialists have trampled upon all the provisions of the Geneva Agreements, overtly introduced weapons, munitions and war material into the South at an accelerated tempo and increased their military personnel from 200 at the end of the war to 3,500 in 1961. They have frenziedly stepped up their intervention in every field, feverishly built up a regular and modern army for the puppet administration and strengthened such other anti-revolutionary armed forces as civil guard, people's militia, police and public security. They have frantically built up and extended military bases in the South and constructed a complete system of strategic roads so big and perfect as not only to cater for the aggressive war in South Vietnam but also to meet the greater requirements of the U.S. army in South-East Asia.

With the help of the U.S. imperialist, and in furtherance of their neo-colonialist policy, the Ngo Dinh Diem dethroned Bao Dai, a puppet of the French colonialists, illegally founded in the South the so-called Republic of Vietnam and resorted to oppression and coaxing to carry out separatist general elections, meanwhile they sealed off the provisional military

demarcation line and turned down every proposal to re-establish normal relations and convene a consultative conference with the North.

Despite its signboard of "independence" and "democracy", its other deceptive policies such as "land reform", "rehabilitation of the national economy", since its very inception the Ngo Dinh Diem administration revealed itself as a traitorous clique and came up against a powerful opposition from all our compatriots in the South. It carried out a fascist dictatorial policy of utmost barbarity, launched hundreds of mopping-up campaigns with its regular army, perpetrated countless crimes and set up prisons everywhere to jail and torture patriots. It implemented a state policy of "indictment of communists" and "extermination of communists" to repress the former Resistance members, the parents of those regrouped in the North, those who stood for independence, freedom, peaceful national reunification and the implementation of the Geneva Agreements. It exterminated Buddhist, Cao Dai and Hoa Hao believers, and even terrorized those who had closely co-operated with it once they did not submit unconditionally.

This *unilateral war* started in 1954 became most atrocious in 1957-1959 after the U.S.-Diem clique had provisionally consolidated their administrative and military machine. The Phu Loi massacre and the law 10/1959 were typical of this most savage policy of terror. With their special military courts, prisons, guillotines and war-time repressive measures they hoped to drown in blood the patriotic movement of our

southern compatriots in a short period, consolidate their selfish privileges and interests, and realize their dream of "pacifying the South, filling up the Ben Hai river and marching to the North".

However, far from yielding the expected results, the U.S.-Diem policy of war and terrorism roused a high indignation among all strata of our compatriots in the South. *Our fellow-countrymen held aloft the banner of peace, independence, reunification, democracy, and waged a persistent and valiant political struggle against the enemy, relying on the just cause and legality of the Geneva Agreements.*

When the U.S.-Diem clique treacherously sabotaged the Geneva Agreements, everywhere meetings and demonstrations broke out, slogans appeared demanding an end to terror and reprisals, the re-establishment of North-South relations, a consultative conference for general elections, and the peaceful reunification of the country. The political struggle grew all the more powerful when the U.S.-Diem clique resorted to such wily farces to sabotage further independence and national reunification as referendum and separatist general elections. It became fierce and bloody in the waves of struggle against the policy of "indictment of communists", the mopping-up operations and the massacres of the population. This unyielding political struggle, often waged in front of the muzzles or enemy guns, succeeded in checking and foiling part of their machiavellian schemes ; it highlighted our compatriots' indomitable spirit, frustrated the enemy's policy of "indictment and extermination of communists" which it had raised to the level of

“state policy” in order to divide the southern people, liquidate patriots and quench the revolutionary movement. With various forms of struggle, relying on arguments, the legality of the Geneva Agreements and the pressure of the masses, our compatriots showed their patriotism and solidarity in struggle, exposed the dictatorial and traitorous Ngo Dinh Diem administration, drove it into ever growing isolation and pilloried it.

Throughout five years of arduous and fierce political struggle with their bare hands against the violence of the enemy, our southern compatriots experienced countless sufferings and losses but they carried the day.

Thousands of villages were burnt by the enemy and hundreds of thousands of people jailed, tortured and killed in prisons and concentration camps. But sufferings and losses could not damp our people's combativeness and patriotism. On the contrary, through their fierce political struggle, our compatriots were tempered and become aware of the ferocity of the U.S.-Diem clique, of its irremediable fundamental weakness for it is the enemy of the people and of the fatherland, for it represents violence and injustice.

Through their fierce political struggle, our compatriots clearly realized that *to overthrow the enemy, attain the fundamental aspirations of the broad masses of the people there was no other way than wage a revolutionary struggle*. Far from quenching our compatriots' revolutionary spirit, U.S.-Diem guns, bullets, prisons, re-education centres and fascist laws