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THE PEOPLE'S FRONT OF THE THREE NATIONS OF INDOCHINA AGAINST
THE U.S. IMPERIALIST AGGRESSORS

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1. Uniting the Peoples of the Three Nations of Indochina
Against Colonialism, Old and New, Is a Historical Necessity

The peoples of the three nations of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia live together on the Indochina Peninsula, they "share the same mountains and rivers," their natural and social conditions are similar in many respects, people of one country have long lived and worked in one of the other countries.

"The past 100 years of the history of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos prove that all aggressors, be they the French colonialists, the Japanese fascists, or the U.S. imperialists, have used one country as a base for attacking and occupying another, pursued the traditional 'divide and conquer' policy, and used Indochinese to fight Indochinese in order to carry out their aggression against the three nations of Indochina. The people of Indochina deeply realize that the fates of the three countries are intimately bound up with one another and that no country on the Indochina Peninsula can live peacefully in independence and liberty when the territory of another country is being invaded by imperialists." (1)

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1. Joint Vietnamese-Cambodian Declaration of 7 June 1970.

In fact, in the late 19th century, the French colonialists invaded and occupied the three provinces of Eastern Nam Bo (1862), used them as a springboard for placing their ruling yoke on Cambodia (1863), went on to occupy the rest of Vietnam (1884), and then annexed Laos. During the first 40 years of this century, the Japanese fascists invaded Vietnam and then expanded their rule to Laos and Cambodia. After World War II, when the French colonialists wanted to return to Indochina, they also began by sending expeditionary troops into Vietnam and then re-occupying Cambodia and Laos. When the U.S. imperialists began helping the French colonialists to carry out their war of aggression in Indochina, they used many forms of aid to gain control of the regimes in Saigon, Phnom Penh, and Vientiane. When the war was over and before the signatures on the Geneva Accords had dried, the U.S. formed the Southeast Asian military bloc of aggression, openly placed South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos under the protective "umbrella" of this bloc, rapidly transformed South Vietnam into a new style colony and military base of the U.S., and then went on to intervene in and invade the peaceful, neutral kingdom of Cambodia and sabotage the tripartite coalition government in Laos.

Today, the realities of the war of aggression of the U.S. imperialists in Indochina confirm the close relationship among the three countries even more. The U.S. imperialists have used large radar stations in Laos to direct their aircraft in attacks against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. U.S. aircraft also fly from bases in South Vietnam and Thailand and the 7th Fleet through the air space of North Vietnam to bomb and attack the Lao liberated zone each day. From South Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists continuously conducted acts of armed provocation, occupation, and sabotage against the kingdom of Cambodia and, in the end, they overthrew Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk and sent troops to openly invade the kingdom of Cambodia.

Because their fates are so closely intertwined, the people of the three nations of Indochina have always, throughout their history, united and helped one another in the struggle to defend the independence and liberty of a country. When the French colonialists invaded, occupied, and ruled Indochina, the peoples of the three nations continuously rose in struggle against them and coordinated in battles on the border between two countries such as in the Po-cum-bo uprising in Cambodia and the Truong Quyen uprising in Vietnam in 1870.

2. Uniting the Peoples of the Three Nations of Indochina
Against Imperialism Has Always Been the Line of Our Party

When it was founded, our party deeply realized this historical necessity and advocated the formation of a united front of the peoples of the three nations of Indochina against French colonialism for the purpose of national liberation. In 1930, in a leaflet explaining the change of the party's name from "the Vietnamese Communist Party" to the "Indochinese Communist Party," the party emphasized: all three nations "are ruled and oppressed by French imperialism....," therefore, "no country can wage an individual struggle." Also in this spirit, the 8th Party Plenum in May 1941, in order to step up the struggle against the Japanese fascists and the French colonialists, advocated mobilizing the peoples of the three countries to form the United National Front and, on this basis, establish a broad alliance of the three nations of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia which created the conditions under which the peoples of the three countries seized political power from the hands of the Japanese fascists throughout Indochina in the fall of 1945.

In 1951, while the war of resistance was raging, the Vietnamese-Cambodian-Lao Conference met again at the Viet Bac Base and united the peoples of the three countries in a front against the French colonialists and the U.S. interventionists. President Ho said: "With the singularity of purpose of the three fraternal nations and their broad unity, we can surely rout not one, but several, enemies like the French colonialists and not one, but several, enemies like the U.S. interventionists." (2) The war of resistance of the peoples of the three nations against the French colonialists and the U.S. interventionists won the fundamental national rights of independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Accords.

After the 1954 Geneva Convention, the spirit of unity of the peoples of the three countries of Indochina continued to develop. In Vietnam, the United National Front, based on the strong alliance of workers and peasants and under the leadership of our party, mobilized the powerful forces of the 40 million people of Vietnam, advanced the war of resistance against the U.S. for national salvation to great and comprehensive victories, and strongly inspired

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2. "Appeals Made by President Ho, Volume 2"; Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1956, p 83.

the patriotic movements in the two neighboring, fraternal countries. In Laos, the Lao Patriotic Front, which was continuously consolidated and strengthened, led the people of Laos in a continuous fight to drive off and weaken the forces of the enemy and expand the liberated zone. In Cambodia, under the leadership of Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk, the various strata of people determinedly fought to defend their national independence and made every effort to build their independent economy and develop their national culture.

In March 1965, the first Indochinese Peoples Conference, which was attended by 38 delegations representing the various movements and mass organizations in the three countries and which adopted positive resolutions, was an important milestone in the establishment and strengthening of the front of the peoples of the three nations of Indochina against the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

3. The Insidious Plot of the Nixon Clique in Its Effort to Isolate Indochina and Divide Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos

Dividing people in order to weaken them and create the conditions for conquering and enslaving them is a classic trick of the imperialists, particularly the U.S. imperialists. To the old fox, Nixon, division has truly become a type of "national policy," a key principle in the counterrevolutionary global strategy of the U.S. imperialists, the "Nixon Doctrine." According to this "doctrine," Nixon advocates "sharing," that is, getting the allies and satellites of the U.S. to share the work of playing gendarme in each area of the world, and, at the same time, engaging in "negotiations," that is, making every effort to create large cracks and holes in the ranks of the opposite side. Applied to Indochina, this "doctrine" is the "Vietnamization" plan, that is, the plan of using the Vietnamese to die in the place of American soldiers, using Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese, and using Indochinese, primarily the Saigon mercenaries, to fight Indochinese.

In 1969, Nixon focused his attention upon the kingdom of Cambodia as soon as he took power. In a display of "good will," he recognized the present borders of Cambodia and reopened the embassy in Phnom Penh, however, in actuality, he used this presence to disrupt relations between Vietnam and Cambodia and create internal division within Cambodia in order to block Cambodia's active and valuable

support of the resistance war forces in South Vietnam. In 1970, realizing that he could not change Cambodia's positive policy of peace and neutrality, Nixon engineered the overthrow of Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk, established the lackey system of Lon Nol, and instigated heinous massacres of our Vietnamese compatriots in Cambodia in order to create deep national hatred and weaken the forces united against the U.S. imperialists. Following this, he openly sent U.S. and Saigon puppet troops to invade Cambodia and expand the war to all of Indochina.

In early 1971, realizing that the coup d'etat and the invasion of Cambodia had failed to isolate the war of resistance of the people of South Vietnam, the Nixon clique sent the Saigon puppet army to attack and occupy the Route 9-Southern Laos region in a vain attempt to cut Indochina in half, isolate the war of resistance of the people of South Vietnam and the people of Cambodia, and cause it to "slowly wither away."

In 1971 and 1972, Nixon intensified his crafty "global diplomatic" activities in order to carry out his plan to divide and isolate the revolutionary undertaking of the peoples of the three countries of Indochina. In their effort to create disagreements among the various socialist countries and within the international communist movement, the Nixon clique has sought to weaken the international support for the three countries of Indochina, isolate the countries of Indochina from the fraternal and friendly countries of the world, and create suspicion and discord among the countries of Indochina. They have tried to create the atmosphere of a "detente" in the world in order to escalate their barbarous attacks against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and mine and blockade its ports. They have created the illusion of negotiating in "good will," put forth conditions which have the nature of ultimatums, and not only demanded that our people surrender, but also demanded that our people surrender for the peoples of the two neighboring, fraternal countries.

4. In the Face of the New Plot of the U.S. Imperialists, the People's Front of the Three Nations of Indochina Has Reached a New Stage of Development

The coup d'etat in Cambodia in early 1970 which was engineered by the Nixon clique did not destroy the independence and neutrality of Cambodia, rather, to the contrary, it created the conditions for the Cambodian revolution to take a leap forward. The Cambodian National United Front, comprised

of such never before united elements as working people, monks, and even members of royalty, was formed. The front adopted its Political Platform which included bold democratic reforms and, in particular, raised the issue of land in order to "unite all of the people, struggle against each plot and act of aggression of the U.S. imperialists, and overturn the dictatorial system of their lackeys, led by the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique, in order to build a Cambodia of independence, peace, neutrality, democracy, and prosperity."

On the basis of the consolidation of the united national fronts of each country, the High Level Conference of the Peoples of the Three Nations of Indochina was conducted on 24 and 25 April 1970 and was a brilliant success, thereby marking a highpoint in the history of the fighting unity of the peoples of the three countries and the history of the formation and growth of the Indochinese People's Anti-Imperialist Front. The Joint Declaration of the conference, which deeply and comprehensively reviewed the struggle against the U.S. imperialists and the struggle to protect national independence during the past 15 years and more, enumerated the various factors insuring victory, namely, the tradition of patriotism, the unyielding, determined fighting spirit of the people of Indochina, a correct leadership policy, the spirit of fighting unity and fraternal friendship among the peoples of the three countries, and the broad and strong support and sympathy of the people of the world. This Declaration, which is the platform for the struggle of the peoples of the three nations of Indochina, is also a model charter for the relations which exist among the peoples of the three fraternal, neighboring countries. The Declaration pointed out: "On the basis of the principle that the liberation and defense of a country is the undertaking of the people of that country, the parties pledge to wholeheartedly support one another in accordance with the requirements of each party and on the basis of mutual respect. The parties hereby state their determination to develop the spirit of fraternal friendship and good neighborly relations among the three countries while supporting one another in resisting the common enemy as well as in the future in long range cooperation to develop the various countries in accordance with the course each is following."

On the basis of the principle mentioned above and in order to combat the insidious devious plot of the imperialists, it is necessary to clearly differentiate among three problems presently existent in Indochina. The first type is the problem between the countries of Indochina and the U.S.: as long as the U.S. continues its aggression against one country in Indochina, the independence and peace

of the other two countries cannot be assured, therefore, the people' of the three countries must unite closely together and determinedly fight to defeat the "Nixon Doctrine" in Indochina. The second type of problem is comprised of the internal problems of each country in Indochina which pertain to the sovereignty of the people of each country. After the Americans are driven out and the puppets overturned, the people of each country will solve their own internal problems without foreign intervention. The third type is the problem which exists among the countries of Indochina and the close, fraternal countries which cannot be confused with the problems between the peoples of these countries and the U.S. imperialist aggressors. The peoples of the three countries will, together, solve these problems free from foreign intervention in accordance with the spirit of the Joint Declaration of the High Level Conference of the Peoples of the Three Countries of Indochina.

5. Since the High Level Conference, the Peoples of the Three Countries of Indochina have United in Combat on Three Fronts, the Military, Political, and Diplomatic Fronts, and Won Outstanding Victories

The plan of the U.S. imperialists to divide, surround, and isolate the countries of Indochina has been tragically bankrupted. By overthrowing Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk and invading and occupying regions they call the "sanctuaries" of the "Viet Cong" in Cambodia, the U.S. created favorable objective conditions for the Cambodian revolution to take a leap forward. The defeat of the U.S. and the Lon Nol puppet army in what was called the "Chen La II" operation in the fall of 1971 marked the total collapse of the Nixon administration's "Cambodianization" of the war plan. The "sanctuaries" were not destroyed, rather, the liberated zone in South Vietnam was firmly linked to the liberated zone in Cambodia. In early 1971, in their attack against and occupation of the Route 9-Southern Laos region, the U.S. imperialists and the Saigon puppet army failed to carry out their plans and, in addition, lost all of the best trained units of the Saigon puppet army; this marked the irreversible defeat of the "Vietnamization" of the war program in South Vietnam. In December 1971, the brilliant victory of the Lao Liberation Army at Plaine des Jarres-Long Cheng dealt the Vientiane puppet army and the "Laoization" of the war plan fatal blows. In late March 1972, the continuous general offensive and uprising of the army and people of South Vietnam in close coordination with the struggle of the peoples of the two fraternal, neighboring countries won victories of strategic significance and

created the best situation ever for the wars of resistance for national salvation in South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

Together with the military victories, the liberated zones in South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos have been constantly expanded and the people's regimes have been continuously consolidated. Meanwhile, the lackey regimes of the U.S. imperialists have been beset by more and more dissention and corruption. In the world, the prestige of the forces resisting the U.S. in the three countries of Indochina has improved with each passing day. The 64 countries participating in the Conference of Non-Alligned Nations in Georgetown, the capital of Guiana in South America, in August 1972 formally recognized the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam and the Government of National Unity of the Kingdom of Cambodia as official members of the conference.

c. Stronger Unity and Greater Vigilance Against the Devisive Plots of the U.S. Imperialists and Their Lackeys

The spirit of unity and friendship of the peoples of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia has endured difficult challenges and been continuously strengthened and developed. "This spirit of friendship is higher than a mountain, longer than a river, wider than a sea, more beautiful than the full moon, and more fragrant than the most fragrant flower."(3)

Protecting and strengthening this spirit of unity and friendship must be the concern of each of us. We must be vigilant and uncover and combat the devisive plots of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys. In keeping with the crafty and calculating nature of the Nixon clique at this time, they are not only trying to provoke bad national relations and emphasizing the negative aspects in the history of the three nations of Indochina, but are also taking advantage of the complex international situation to divide the three countries of Indochina. We must give our attention to correcting and overcoming the deviations in the ranks of our cadres and soldiers as they fulfill their international obligation to the peoples of the two fraternal, neighboring countries. We absolutely must not consider this international obligation an act of unilateral assistance, rather, we must

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3. Prince Souphanouvong: "Speech delivered during a meeting in Hanoi on 25 May 1971."

clearly recognize the valuable support and the great contributions of the peoples of the two friendly countries and of the Lao and Cambodian revolutions to the Vietnam revolution and the liberation of the peoples of the three countries.

"The spirit of fighting unity which links the peoples of the three countries of Indochina is truly great! The U.S. imperialists cannot shake this spirit of loyalty just as they cannot change or reverse the flow of the great Mekong River which has, for generations, brought prosperity and happiness to the peoples of the three countries of Indochina. The people of Vietnam, the people of Cambodia, and the people of Laos are united as one and will definitely win total victory." (4)

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4. Joint Declaration by President Ton Duc Thang and Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk on 5 May 1972.

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