

# Soviets counter drive for war

*With increasing public statements and detente diplomacy, the Soviet Union is bluntly warning the United States and China against pursuing strategies in the Persian Gulf and Southeast Asian theaters that will lead to war. As in the weeks preceding the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, the Soviets are viewing these "irresponsible strategists" as "every day becoming more dangerous for mankind."*

## Soviets comment on China's war threat

*On Feb. 10, the Soviet Party daily Pravda ran an article "On the Chinese Provocations Against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam," under the byline of I. Aleksandrov. It is widely suspected that that particular byline is a pseudonym for an official Politburo statement. Excerpts from the article follow.*

In the recent period, the provocational actions of Peking on the border of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam are causing more and more concern for the world public. For many months, China has been systematically and deliberately creating tension on the Chinese-Vietnamese border and inspiring armed incidents in which the peaceful citizens and the border guards of Vietnam have perished. Chinese planes and ships are constantly violating the air space and the territorial waters of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. In the last few days, the scale of these provocations has grown markedly. It is now practically a question of attacks by groups of Chinese troops on the border areas of Vietnam.

These demonstrative military preparations by Peking on the Chinese-Vietnamese border clearly have the aim of exerting unconcealed military pressure on the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and launching aggressions against the Vietnamese people. The Chinese leaders are trying to mask their military preparations with a smoke screen of disinformation and slanders against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the USSR ... to mask their true aggressive plans.

What can be said in this respect? Naked armed incursions into the territory of socialist Vietnam and other hostile actions by the Peking expansionists are the logical result of the policy of provocation, which the present Chinese leaders, heirs of the great power course of Mao Tse-tung, have conducted over a period of many years toward Southeast Asia in general and Vietnam in particular...The murderous raids of the Chinese military against the

Socialist Republic of Vietnam show once more that Peking views Southeast Asia as a zone in which Chinese rule should ultimately be established as a bridgehead for the subsequent domination of all Asia ...

Peking did not want to see the creation of a united socialist Vietnam. The war in Indochina was not yet over, and the Chinese leadership began to take steps toward weakening Vietnam's positions...Peking resorted to crude pressure in order to try and force its course on Vietnam. When it became clear that the Vietnamese people had no intention of being the instrument of Chinese policy, but rather were turning into a powerful obstacle in the path of Peking's expansion into Southeast Asia, the Chinese authorities began to interfere in the socialist transformation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, tried to exert pressure on Vietnam, completely broke economic and other ties, and tried to create a hostile encirclement around Vietnam. They chose as their tool the antipeople Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique in Cambodia and used it to wage an undeclared border war. The Vietnamese people, who had so recently repulsed imperialist intervention, were forced again to take up arms to defend the independence and protect the security of their country.

The Chinese leaders were extremely embittered by the swift collapse of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime, hated by the Cambodian people, as it fell apart like a house of cards under the blows of the Khmer patriots led by the United Front for the National Salvation of Kampuchea ....

All honest people in the world heard with satisfaction the news of the liberation of the Khmer people from oppression by the reactionary clique imposed on them from outside and inflicting huge suffering and innumerable casualties among them.

Only the Peking leaders are trying in every way to justify and save these criminal political bankrupts, who established in Cambodia the Chinese model of political structure and assiduously transplanted into Cambodia soil the Chinese "Cultural Revolution." In vain, the Chinese leaders are seeking to find the reasons for the collapse of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime in the action of Vietnam and the Soviet Union. They should be sought in Cambodia itself and in China, since they are to be found in the antipeople policy of that regime and in the actions of its Chinese protectors.

The question arises why and with what purpose Peking is taking military measures on the China-Vietnam border. After all, the whole world knows very well that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has never been preparing to threaten China. These demonstrative preparations by Peking are clearly intended to ignite a hot spot on the border with Vietnam and, if possible, to expand the scale of military

provocations—while accusing Vietnam of premeditated aggression against China.

What sane person could believe this slander—a charge against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam of “preparing and launching aggression” against China? Nobody! The Vietnamese people have proven that they have acted and are acting for their national independence, and for peace, and that acts of aggression against their homeland are doomed to fail.

## Vietnam: UN must intervene for peace

*Foreign Minister and Vice Premier Nguyen Duy Trinh of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam sent the following urgent message to UN Security Council President Abdella Yaccoub Bishara and to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim on Feb. 12, urging them to intervene to stop the Peking government in its military preparations for war against Vietnam. He called these acts of armed aggression a “serious challenge to the peace and justice-loving peoples and countries in the world.”*

The Chinese authorities have recently intensified their armed activities at the Vietnamese border and carried out feverish war preparations against Vietnam.

They have deployed 20 divisions, hundreds of fighter planes, numerous tanks and other war materiel close to the China-Vietnam border. They have carried out daily armed activities in violation of Vietnam’s territory, thus creating an extremely dangerous situation all along the border between China and Vietnam.

Along with these hostile acts, there have been reports — openly confirmed by Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping during his visits to the United States and Japan — on the massive concentration of Chinese troops near the Vietnamese border and his brazen threats of war against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Such a situation has aroused deep anxiety among the governments of many countries and world public opinion.

The above acts stem from the Chinese authorities’ anti-Vietnam policy and their expansionist schemes in Southeast Asia. Already in the early 1970’s, they militarily occupied the Hoang Sa Islands (Paracels), made absurd

claims for other Vietnamese islands in the Eastern Sea (South of the China Sea) and provoked border disputes between the two countries. They have incited the Hoa in Vietnam to cause disturbances. Taking advantage of the difficulties caused to Vietnam by natural calamities, they stopped their aid and withdrew their specialists in an attempt to bring the Vietnamese to their knees. They asked other countries to cease aid to Vietnam in contravention of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly concerning aid to Vietnam’s reconstruction. They used the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique as a tool to wage war against the Vietnamese people and to provoke conflicts with other neighboring countries, thus threatening peace and stability in Southeast Asia. They have at the same time sought to alienate Vietnam from the ASEAN countries and to oppose one South Asian country to another.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam energetically denounce the Chinese authorities’ acts of war intimidation which are adventurous acts likely to lead to unforeseeable dangerous consequences to peace and security in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world. By their deeds and words, the Chinese authorities have acted contrary to the United Nations Charter, trampled underfoot the elementary principles of international law. That is a serious challenge to the peace and justice-loving peoples and countries in the world.

Always true to the traditional friendship between Vietnam and China, the Vietnamese people persist in their policy of negotiated settlement of the disputes, but they are determined to defend the independence, sovereignty and sacred territorial integrity of their Motherland and the fruits of their peaceful labor. The Vietnamese people are firmly convinced that the peoples and governments of the peace and justice-loving countries in the world will do all in their power to check in time the Chinese authorities’ adventurous and bellicose acts and will strengthen their solidarity with the Vietnamese people for the defense of Vietnam.

### **Vietnam warns U.S.: China card doomed to failure**

*On Feb. 8 the Vietnamese newspaper, Hanoi Vna, denounced the United States’ alliance with the People’s Republic of China as a threat to world peace and the interests of nations. Here is a brief excerpt of the article titled “Anti-Vietnamese Agitators are Doomed to Failure.”*

Public opinion is following closely how far Washington is ready to go along with China in their joint venture against world peace and the interests of nations. The Vietnamese people cannot but remain alert to what the U.S. has agreed with Peking following the Carter-Teng Hsiao-ping discussions on the situation in East Asia and the Pacific, including the Kampuchea problem and Sino-Vietnamese relations.