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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS

Letter dated 18 September 1980 from the Permanent Representative
of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-
General

Further to my letter dated 16 May 1980 (A/35/274), I have the honour to forward herewith the resolution on the Programme of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons in Viet Nam adopted by the Viet Nam Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons at its first session, held on 31 July 1980, and kindly request Your Excellency to have this letter and its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 79.

(Signed) HA VAN LAU
Permanent Representative of the
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
to the United Nations

ANNEX

THE VIET NAM COMMITTEE
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
Independence - Freedom - Happiness
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R E S O L U T I O N

ON THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
DISABLED PERSONS IN VIET NAM

In response to the Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly adopted at its thirty-second, thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions on the International Year for Disabled Persons, the Government Council of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, in its decision 123/CP of April 18, 1980, has decided to set up the Viet Nam Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons with State Acting President Nguyen Huu Tho as Chairman.

The Viet Nam Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons held its first session on July 31, 1980 to survey the condition of disabled persons in our country, the care given to them so far, and to adopt a resolution on the Programme of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons in Viet Nam.

A. CONDITION OF DISABLED PERSONS IN OUR COUNTRY AND THE CARE PROVIDED THEM
SO FAR.

Our nation has overcome all difficulties and hardships, and made innumerable sacrifices during half a century of resolute and indomitable struggle to liberate the country and defend our motherland. The policies of exploitation, repression and terror of the colonialists, the atrocious wars of aggression waged by the Japanese, French and American imperialists, and the Chinese hegemomists and expansionists, as well as the cultural evils of colonialism and neo-colonialism have left in our country numerous complex social problems of wide scope, among which the problem of disabled persons. According to still incomplete figures, the number of disabled people in our country reaches more

than one million, if one takes only into account those who are very retrained in all normal activities and encounter many difficulties in living. The greater part of these disabled persons are victims of war. Healed hastily in penurious conditions of war, their wounds have left many unforeseeable sequels to their health and life and sometimes with effects on following generations. In addition, the poverty due to an underdeveloped economy ravaged by decennaries of war, the insufficiency in technical equipment, failing in carrying out legislative measures aimed at preventing disabilities are also important causes of disabilities.

Immediately after the August 1945 Revolution and since the beginning of the resistance against the French second invasion, our Party and State have already paid attention to the problem of disabled persons, and promptly adopted policies and orientations for its solution. Priority was given to disabled persons and to disabled children. At every stage of development of our resistance, new policies and concrete measures have been adopted, many plans carried out, and particularly, nation wide vigorous campaign promoted in order to encourage the entire people to assist disabled persons, bringing them a secure, healthy and happy life.

At present, with the attention and care of our Party and State, with the solicitous affection of the entire people, disabled persons in our country have their life guaranteed in many aspects : health care, medical treatment, restoration of health, moral assistance, education and vocational training, suitable jobs ... Many of them are able to take part in and make contribution to the construction and defense of the homeland in proportion to their capabilities thus performing their rights and their duties with equality as other citizens.

Those who cannot secure themselves their life receive social assistance at state and community levels. The State also gives attention in promoting measures in many aspects to prevent disabilities.

Nevertheless, in the actual conditions of our country, on account of its poor economic, scientific and technical development, the above limited achievements cannot yet satisfy our desires and requirements.

B. OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS IN VIET NAM.

In order to defend the principles of peace and human dignity, to promote social justice and the basic rights to liberty proclaimed in the United Nations Charter, and to implement the Declaration of the rights of mentally retarded persons and the Declaration of the rights of disabled persons, the United Nations General Assembly, at its thirty-fourth Session, asserted that the theme of the International Year for Disabled Persons will be "Full participation and equality" (Full participation of disabled persons in the social life and development of the societies in which they live, equality with other citizens in their society, and an equal share in the improvement of living conditions resulting from social and economic development).

Basing itself, on the revolutionary objectives of our Party, i.e. national liberation, class liberation, construction of a social regime free from oppression and exploitation, elimination of all forms of justice, equality, democratic liberty, decent and happy life for all workers, our State has approved and responded to the ideas, conceptions and theme that the United Nations General Assembly has set forth for the International Year of Disabled Persons.

In our society the care provided to disabled persons is based on our view-point of communist humanitarianism. This demonstrates the superiority of our social regime. The creation for disabled persons of appropriate conditions for their "Full participation and equality" in their society is an active effort to liberate and develop these citizens with special difficulties in their individual life, as well as in their participation in social life. It also shows the attention that the State of proletarian dictatorship gives to all workers, part of them are disabled persons, in ensuring them the conditions to exercise entirely their right to mastery.

At the Fourth Congress of our Party, the question of giving care, assistance and bringing a secure, hearty and happy life to all disabled persons and victims of war and neo-colonialism has been debated and treated as an item in the contents of the Congress resolution.

the closest co-operation between the relevant branches). To gradually realize a comprehensive work of rehabilitation, in 1981 priority will be given to the treatment of sequels of wounds by war and sequels of infantile diseases causing disability, social and professional rehabilitation, at the same time, will be continued.

4. To carry out wide - spread prevention of disabilities. To closely combine organizational, educational, administrative mass - mobilization ... measures, in order to ensure an effective prevention in all aspects.

5. To step up the form of labour organization in which disabled persons are introduced into agricultural or handicraft co-operatives.

6. To build more enterprises and other production establishments particularly reserved for disabled persons, thus securing them the possibility of taking adequate part in productive labour.

To secure the attention of different scientific, technical and industrial services for study and production of tools and facilities suitable for different kinds of disabled persons.

7. To consolidate the existing classes and schools for disabled children, and according to available possibilities, to expand the network of these classes and schools. To set up some vocational schools (in which study is co-ordinated with rehabilitative training) for young disabled who are over the school age.

To build pilot - centres in the localities where facilities are available and gradually expand the co-ordination of rehabilitative instruction with education in creches, kindergartens for disabled children.

To make active preparation to form in some years a system of common and vocational schools for different kinds of disabled children under the control of the educational service.

8. To have a plan to strengthen and expand step by step the material basis (buildings and equipments) for the benefit of all kinds of disabled persons:

services of health care, orthopaedy, functional rehabilitation, health resorts, therapeutic centres, and for the prevention of disabilities.

To readjust the management of important institutional centres and improve the material and spiritual life of war invalids and disabled persons living there.

9. To facilitate the participation by disabled persons in cultural activities. To give them priority in attending artistic performances, to found cultural houses and clubs sectors for disabled persons. To found cultural houses particularly reserved for disabled persons in the localities where conditions permit.

To help disabled persons to compose and perform artistic works according to each kind of disability.

To promote the creation of cultural and artistic works in service of disabled persons.

To organize the production and distribution of cultural articles suitable for each kind of disabled persons.

To help disabled persons to take part in suitable sports activities.

Different services concerned with the management of everyday life have the obligation to create for disabled persons favorable conditions in the domains of housing, transport, information, shopping ... so that they can ever more participate in the social life.

10. To supervise and rectify the implementation of the promulgated policies and regulations concerning war invalids and disabled persons. To study the amendments to be added to these policies, regulations and norms, so as disabled persons have the conditions required for their physical and vocational rehabilitation, study and productive activities ... To organize the study and drafting of a legislation securing them the citizen rights and the right to equality and suitable job (the services in charge of war invalids and social affairs will look after the drafting of the legislation in co-ordination with the relevant branches).

To create for the Vietnamese Association of the blind the conditions to step up its activities, for example : To broaden and strengthen its organization and to step up the education and mobilization of its members and of the masses, the education and the organization of productive and cultural activities for blind persons.

To help this Association broaden its foreign relations for the purpose of exchanging experience and receiving aid from the organizations of blind in other countries.

To create, on the basis of the activities of the Viet Nam Committee of the International Year of Disabled Persons, the conditions to merge this Association into the " Viet Nam Committee (or Association) for Disabled Persons" in conformity with the Government council circular 202/CP on the assistance for old persons, homeless orphans and disabled persons.

11. To make preparations to take part in international activities and conferences on disabled persons, in order to exchange experiences with other countries in the domain of solving different problems on disabled persons, broaden friendly relations between disabled persons of Viet Nam and disabled persons in other countries, especially in socialist countries. In the two fraternal countries, Laos and Kampuchea, the countries struggling for national independence and freedom, and the friendly countries in South-East Asia, to call on the United Nations Organization and the humanitarian organizations of different countries to assist disabled persons of Viet Nam.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN 1981 :

- To conduct a public campaign in all branches, at all levels and among the entire people and encourage them to take part in the implementation of the programme and plan of action of the International Year of Disabled Persons.
- To carry out a basic survey on disabled persons,
- To begin the establishment of an organization system for orthopaedy and rehabilitation at all levels throughout the country.

- To strengthen the existing establishments and set up new ones to help settling the problem of disabled persons.

- To step up the drafting of a legislation on the rights and obligations of disabled persons.

- To expand foreign relations, in order to create more favorable conditions for the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Year of Disabled Persons in Viet Nam.

AUGUST 18, 1980
