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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Letter dated 22 September 1981 from the Permanent Representative of
Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith to Your Excellency the 17 September 1981 statement by the Spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam rejecting the United States charges against the alleged use by Viet Nam of Soviet-supplied toxic chemicals in Laos and Kampuchea and kindly request Your Excellency to have this note and its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 42.

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

ANNEX

S T A T E M E N T

BY THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

(September 17, 1981)

On September 13, 1981 in a speech reeking with cold war language made in West Berlin, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig unashamedly charged Viet Nam with using Soviet-supplied toxic chemicals in Laos and Kampuchea. Later, some high officials of the U.S. State Department took up this customary practice of the United States of making black white.

The fact that the head of the U.S. diplomacy personally made this slander a few days before the opening of the 36th Session of the U.N. General Assembly obviously aims to relieve the U.S. from its difficulties and isolation in the face of the strong wave of protest from the whole progressive opinion against the Reagan administration's rushing headlong in the arms race, provoking tension and reviving the cold war atmosphere, seriously threatening the independence and security of nations and world peace. The United States is increasing its nuclear arsenal and manufacturing more arms of massive destruction of extreme barbarity, including chemical weapons, bacteriological weapons and neutron weapons. The United States is stepping up the export of weapons and war equipment including the sales of arms to the reactionary ruling circles in Beijing. The U.S. has openly resorted to the threat of war, and brazenly used acts of international terrorism, crudely interfering in the internal affairs of other countries while encouraging its client countries or dependencies to toe its line. The U.S. is conducting a bacteriological warfare against Cuba and is supplying toxic chemicals to the reactionaries to be used against the peoples of other countries as is the case in Afghanistan. The fact that the U.S. is rehashing their senseless slanders against Viet Nam also aims to plead for its policy of increasing collusion with the reactionary ruling circles in Beijing against the people of Viet Nam and other Indochinese countries, and for the time being to retain the seat of the genocidal Pol Pot clique at the United Nations.

It is at the same time aimed at covering the crime of the United States of using toxic chemicals on a large scale and for more than ten years during their criminal aggression against Viet Nam. Its chemical sprays still leave serious consequences especially in the form of cancer and deformed and disabled children. However, all the slanders and odious distortions of the United States can deceive nobody. World public opinion, especially in Western Europe, Japan and Australia, and right in the United States, is vigorously condemning the

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Reagan administration and demanding it to put an immediate end to the arms race which is jeopardizing peace. It holds the U.S. responsible for these criminal war crimes against the people of Viet Nam, and the other Indochinese countries and against the American GI's who have suffered the atrocious consequences of the chemicals used by the United States during the Viet Nam war.

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam completely rejects the above odious slanders of the United States and demands the Reagan administration to stop collaborating with the expansionists and hegemomists in Beijing against the Vietnamese and other Indochinese peoples.

Together with all the peace - and justice - loving people throughout the world, including the progressive people in the United States, the Vietnamese people strongly denounce and are determined to check the criminal schemes and acts of the U.S. administration which is pushing mankind to the war disaster with the most barbarous and brutal lethal weapons including the neutron weapons, chemical weapons and bacteorological weapons produced by the United States./.
