



## General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/36/640  
2 November 1981  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Thirty-sixth session  
Agenda items 66 and 83

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION TO AVERT NEW FLOWS OF REFUGEES

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Letter dated 30 October 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the press release dated 9 October 1981 of Mr. Hoang Bich Son, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, issued during his visit to Geneva on the invitation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

I request you kindly to have this note and the aforesaid press release circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 66 and 83.

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

ANNEX

PRESS RELEASE OF MR. HOANG BICH SON, VICE-MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

On the invitation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees a delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, headed by Mr. Hoang Bich Son, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, paid a visit to Geneva from 5 to 9 October in order to exchange views on matters of common interest, inter alia the question of legal departures from Viet Nam.

The Vice-Minister and his delegation held talks with the High Commissioner, Mr. Poul Hartling, the Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. W. R. Smuser, and other senior officials of the Office of the High Commissioner. The two parties discussed the implementation of the Memorandum of agreement, concluded on 30 May 1979 between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the High Commissioner for Refugees, and expressed their satisfaction with the recent progress made in organizing legal departures from Viet Nam.

The two parties reaffirmed their attachment to the principles and modalities of the aforesaid Memorandum of agreement.

In the course of the discussions, the two parties registered their agreement on the measures for expediting the legal departures of persons wishing to leave Viet Nam to settle abroad. The aim of these positive measures is to increase, in the coming months, the number and rate of legal departures. This will help to discourage illegal departures from Viet Nam. In this connexion, it was noted that the regular and uninterrupted legal departures already amount to over 1,000 persons per month.

The two parties also agreed that the resettlement of the Kampuchean refugees now in Viet Nam must be promoted and that the countries of resettlement must be encouraged to take in a larger number of these refugees.

The two parties expressed their intention of further strengthening their co-operation in the aforesaid areas on the basis of humanitarian principle, mutual understanding and mutual assistance. In keeping with this spirit, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees undertakes to continue assisting Viet Nam in the implementation of the programme agreed by the two parties.

A meeting between the Governments of the host countries concerned and the Vietnamese delegation was organized in the Palais des Nations on 7 October 1981. The representatives of Governments welcomed this initiative and expressed their satisfaction with the recent progress made in implementing the programme. They showed interest in co-operating in order to ensure the continuing development of

the programme. The Vietnamese delegation informed the Governments of the firm intention of its Government to co-operate fully in order to facilitate and expedite the legal departures from Viet Nam.

The High Commissioner expressed his sincere thanks to the Vietnamese delegation and his appreciation for the positive results achieved during this visit. The Vice-Minister, for his part, and his delegation expressed their gratitude for the friendly welcome extended to them by the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and were gratified by the fruitful co-operation between the Vietnamese Government and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

GENEVA, 9 October 1981

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