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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL
AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Human rights and massive exoduses

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Annex I

Governments

VIET NAM

[2 March 1983]

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam attaches great importance to the study of the causes and origins of flows of refugees and to the efforts to find ways of limiting such flows. It believes that a full and objective examination of the causes and origins will help in the search for appropriate measures for the elimination of massive exoduses.

Migratory movements from so-called third-world countries are often attributable to complex and diverse reasons. The main causes are wars of aggression, the creation of areas of tension, interference in the internal affairs of States, the threat or use of force in international relations, policies of racism, zionism and apartheid, the consequences of the exploitation and impoverishment of developing countries, economic blockades, political pressures and politically-motivated incitement to exodus.

The problem of African refugees will exist as long as the racist regime of South Africa pursues its policies of racial discrimination and continues to receive the support of the United States and other imperialist forces.

The problem of Palestinian refugees will not be solved as long as the Zionists of Israel continue to practise racism and the United States of America and imperialist forces continue to support them.

As far as the developing countries in general are concerned, only by the elimination of disparities in international trade, injustices in the distribution of natural resources, the plundering and exploitation of the resources of developing countries by transnational corporations, and by the establishment of a just and equitable new international economic order can the causes of flows of refugees be removed.

In the case of Viet Nam, the causes and origins of the problem of departures are foreign wars of aggression and all their consequences, particularly with regard to the Vietnamese economy and Vietnamese society, the continued application by the United States and China of a policy of hostility towards Viet Nam, by such means as the economic blockade, intimidation and incitement to leave, with a view to "bleeding" Viet Nam white, and the use and organization of undesirable elements among those leaving to oppose Viet Nam.

The root of the problem of Vietnamese refugees cannot be dealt with until the United States and China put an end to their policy and acts of hostility against Viet Nam, all intimidation and incitement of Vietnamese to leave the country, and the economic blockade against Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese Government believes that joint efforts on the part of the international community are needed to find measures whereby flows of refugees and displaced persons can be avoided. Such efforts and international co-operation, must be in absolute conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the principle of respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. Consultations must also be held with the countries concerned, with a view to finding a solution to the problem of such exoduses.

The Vietnamese Government is of the view that the creation of additional United Nations bodies is unnecessary and could lead to duplication or complicate the work of existing United Nations bodies such as UNHCR, as stated in recommendations (8) on the appointment of a Special Representative for Humanitarian Questions and (9) on the formation of a corps of "humanitarian observers". The formation of these bodies is unnecessary in view of the creation by the United Nations of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees. This Group will consider all aspects of the refugee question and seek ways of solving the problem of exoduses on a world scale.

Viet Nam believes that, at the moment, it is neither necessary nor timely to undertake a further comprehensive review of existing legislation on refugees.

Viet Nam reserves the right to comment further on the study entitled "Human rights and massive exoduses" in appropriate forums.

Hanoi, 1 March 1983.