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LETTER DATED 6 OCTOBER 1966 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES a.i. OF THAILAND
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the letter from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Viet-Nam, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which was delivered to Your Excellency by Mr. Bui Diem, Foreign Secretary of the Republic of Viet-Nam, on 5 October 1966 at the United Nations Headquarters.

In view of the importance of the question of Viet-Nam of which the Security Council remains seized, I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the above-mentioned letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Accept, etc.

(Signed) Anand PANYARACHUN
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN CAO KY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM ADDRESSED TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, U THANT

I should like to extend to you, on behalf of the people and the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam, my deep appreciation for your personal efforts aiming at re-establishing peace and order in this area of the world.

The Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam expresses its profound regret at your decision not to offer yourself for a second term as Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization. Your epoch-making assignment has been marked by many successes, and I sincerely join numerous other voices in requesting you to continue your role, for the sake of world peace and international co-operation.

Your concern for peace has also been shared by many other heads of State and Government, including my own; unfortunately, all efforts in this direction have been rejected by Peking and Hanoi.

The root cause of the war in Viet-Nam, a war which has taken a tragic toll in death and destruction among the people of both the North and South, is simple: The Republic of Viet-Nam is the object of an armed attack, planned, launched and directed by North Viet-Nam. At first in violation of the Geneva Agreements, North Viet-Nam deliberately left in South Viet-Nam, since 1954, tens of thousands of agents of subversion and numerous weapon and ammunition stockpiles. A ruthless campaign of murder, terror and intimidation was then launched and has gradually grown into a full-scale armed attack involving the use of regular armed forces of North Viet-Nam.

This war violates the most elementary rule of international law - for, since 1954, South Viet-Nam has fully enjoyed the status of an independent country, has been so recognized by the vast majority of the non-communist world, has become a member of many international organizations and has repeatedly been supported by the majority of the General Assembly for United Nations membership.

In the interest of self-preservation and self-defense, as well as from a desire to help heal the wounds inflicted on our people by war, the Republic of Viet-Nam has called upon friendly Governments for both military and economic assistance.

The United States of America, Australia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and the Philippines have responded to our request, and thanks to their significant contribution, and that of other nations, the Republic of Viet-Nam has been able to defend itself against the tide of communist military aggression.

The above facts clearly indicate that the conflict is a struggle for the survival of the people of South Viet-Nam who have demonstrated beyond any doubt - through their voices at the ballot box - that they refuse to accept what North Viet-Nam seeks to impose on them. It is for this reason that we insist that Hanoi discontinue its support and direction of the organizations it has formed on the territory of South Viet-Nam and that it withdraw from the South troops, political and military cadres it has illegally introduced there.

As long as the communists continue their efforts to subjugate our country, we have no alternative but to continue to defend ourselves. At the same time, I would like to stress that my Government and people look forward to the day when peace can be restored in South Viet-Nam, and we stand ready to consider any initiative for a settlement of this conflict which would preserve the independence of the Republic of Viet-Nam and the right of its people to choose their own way of life. We have, as you know, made this clear on a number of occasions.

In this connexion, I would like to recall our statement on 22 June 1965, and to present the following summary of the four points set forth therein:

(1) Subversive and military activities undertaken, directed and supported by outside force against the independence and liberty of the people of South Viet-Nam must cease.

(2) South Viet-Nam must be left alone, to choose and shape for itself its own destiny in accordance with established democratic processes without any coercion or intervention of whatever form and whatever source.

(3) When the aggression initiated by the North has ceased, the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam will be able to halt its defensive military measures. Moreover, the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam will then be prepared to ask those countries which have provided military forces for the defense of South Viet-Nam to withdraw those forces from South Viet-Nam.

(4) Finally, the independence and liberty of the Viet-Nameese people in the South must be effectively guaranteed.

In summary, our aims are to ensure for ourselves no more than that which is sought by any people - the right to determine its own future in peace and freedom.

While the Republic of Viet-Nam courageously fights to defend itself, it has not neglected long-range projects for the betterment of living standards and for the development of a free society based upon the democratic ideals. On Sunday, 11 September 1966, even in the midst of military operations, elections to the National Constituent Assembly were successfully held throughout the territory of the Republic. Despite a campaign of terror and threats launched by the Viet Cong, the Viet-Nameese citizenry has once more shown its determination and courage by turning out massively to vote in elections which, as witnessed by foreign independent observers and press correspondents from all over the non-communist world, were completely free and honestly carried out.

At the grass-roots level, the Rural Reconstruction (known under the name of Revolutionary Development) Program has been continuously expanding to ensure the population's security and provide much needed support for many self-help projects. On the economic front, with the precious aid of friendly nations, the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam has succeeded in bringing about economic stability with a series of monetary and fiscal measures.

But we yearn for the day when it will no longer be necessary to devote our resources - human, material and financial - to our self-defense and self-preservation, when those same resources can be devoted to the betterment of life for every member of our society.

It is for this reason that the people of South Viet-Nam welcome any effort - by you, organs of the United Nations or any of its Members - to bring peace and stability out of the turbulent South-East Asia scene.

This is one of the greatest tasks now facing the world community, and the people and Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam have confidence in your whole-hearted devotion to this task.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Air Vice Marshal NGUYEN CAO KY
Prime Minister of the Republic of Viet-Nam

Date: 4 October 1966