



## Expose Viet Nam's aggressive ambitions

The Vietnamese people's resistance to U.S. aggression awakened many Americans to the reactionary role of U.S. imperialism. It gave impetus to the revolutionary movement in this country during the 1960's and early 1970's, and marked the decline of U.S. imperialism internationally. In contrast to the role that Viet Nam played in the past, the recent actions of the Vietnamese authorities are a serious concern for people here and around the world.

The Vietnamese authorities are conducting an armed invasion of neighboring socialist Kampuchea. They are persecuting overseas Chinese residents and carrying out acts of aggression against China. Recently, Vietnamese officials publicly and privately announced withdrawal of their aid to the Communist Parties of Thailand and the Philippines, as a way of winning support from the governments of these two Southeast Asian countries. These acts by the Vietnamese authorities betray the basic principles of proletarian internationalism.

Furthermore, the Vietnamese authorities' cooperation with the Soviet social-imperialists is becoming more obvious, as top Vietnamese officials just completed a nine-day trip to the Soviet Union, where Soviet and Vietnamese officials signed a so-called "Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation" — actually a military pact. One of the clauses of this treaty requires the signers to "consult each other with a view to eliminating" attacks or threats of attacks to each other's countries.

Viet Nam's invasion of Kampuchea dates back to the close of the liberation war. In 1975, Viet Nam invaded Kampuchea's Wei Island and began to move on Kampuchean territory. The Vietnamese authorities tried to force Kampuchea into an Indochina Federation headed by Viet Nam, and planned to annex Kampuchea. Weapons captured from the U.S. imperialists were turned against Kampuchea.

The Vietnamese authorities' plans have not succeeded, but the fighting is still going on. The Vietnamese government is flagrantly disregarding the Kampuchea-Viet Nam borderline which had previously been recognized by the National Liberation Front of South Viet Nam in 1966, and by Ho Chi Minh and the government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in 1967.

Viet Nam's persecution of overseas Chinese also goes back several years. In the last few months, this harsh persecution has so far forced 160,000 Chinese residents to leave Viet Nam. Recently, the Vietnamese authorities have provoked violent incidents at the border, and in late August this year, they sent armed personnel and militiamen hundreds of yards into China's territory.

To justify their attacks, the Vietnamese authorities have resorted to a massive slander campaign against China. They are calling China the aggressor, saying that China is "infringing on Viet Nam's territory," and

painting China as the bully. They are even calling China the cause of Kampuchea's "aggression."

### Soviet instigation

Although the Vietnamese authorities are acting upon certain regional ambitions to control Indochina, it is the Soviet social-imperialists who are providing fuel and instigating Viet Nam's actions for their own ends. The Soviets aim to take over all of Southeast Asia and the routes between the Pacific and Indian Oceans. This would give them control of the oil routes to Japan and pose a serious threat to the old U.S. imperialist stronghold in the Western Pacific. It would advance the Soviets' plans to encircle socialist China, and strengthen the Soviets' hand in trying to dominate the entire globe.

The Soviet Union has had this in mind since before Viet Nam's liberation. During the Viet Nam war, the Soviets used military aid to try to manipulate the liberation movement. They withheld critical military supplies like anti-aircraft weaponry to pressure the liberation forces into dependency. Now that the war is over, the Soviets are discouraging Viet Nam's economic development and reconstruction from the ravages of war. Instead, they are offering to build offensive missile bases on Vietnamese soil. This year the Soviets increased sea and air shipments which were reported as "the first such concentrated resupply" of Soviet arms since the end of the Viet Nam war.

To tie Viet Nam closer, the Soviets had Viet Nam join the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), a Soviet dominated economic group. The social-imperialists promoted Viet Nam's bid to join the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to subvert its stand for non-alignment from the two superpowers.

Using Viet Nam to fight other

Asians and to split the non-aligned movement is a new Soviet tactic in Asia. But it is just a replay of what the Soviet social-imperialists did to Cuba, by subverting the Cuban revolution and using Cuba to do their dirty work in Africa.

The Soviet Union has been playing on the Vietnamese authorities' regional ambitions for hegemony. But it is obviously the Soviet Union which stands to gain the most from Viet Nam's aggressive and divisive actions.

The Soviet Union is gleeful about the situation. They have loudly praised the Vietnamese government and have called Viet Nam's acts "a constructive contribution to the spread of detente in Asia."

### An unjust cause is bound to fail

But Viet Nam's war against Kampuchea and attacks on People's China are unpopular and are bound to fail. The Vietnamese authorities have been unable to win support for their aims even within Viet Nam. They have not been able to mobilize the Vietnamese people as they did when their cause was just — when they were fighting for the liberation of Viet Nam from U.S. imperialism. This is why the Vietnamese authorities have failed to beat the smaller and worse-equipped Kampuchean forces. The Vietnamese government is becoming more exposed by its own actions.

For the U.S. working class and masses of people who marched by the millions for Viet Nam's liberation not long ago, we are learning by negative example yet another instance of Soviet social-imperialist treachery. The people of the world must continue to have faith in the Vietnamese, Kampuchean and Laotian people, and must expose and condemn the unjust actions of the Vietnamese authorities and the hegemonistic schemes of the Soviet Union.