

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNISTS ON VIETNAM

Resolution of the Central Committee of the South African Communist Party

I. The Central Committee expresses the heartfelt solidarity and unqualified admiration which all members and supporters of the South African Communist Party feel towards the people of Vietnam in their fight for freedom and independence.

The U.S.A., the biggest and most powerful imperialist country, has subjected this small but valiant nation to an all-out war of aggression and mass murder. In South Vietnam, an invading army of over 400,000 American troops, armed with the most technically-advanced and terrible weapons and equipment, and supported by 600,000 troops of the puppet Saigon regime and of the U.S. satellite governments of Australia, South Korea and New Zealand, is waging a war of indiscriminate slaughter whose crimes exceed those of the Nazis in the second world war.

In defiance of international law and the U.N. Charter, the U.S.A. has committed innumerable acts of aggression by bombing the territory and populated areas of an independent socialist state, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, destroying many homes, schools and hospitals, killing and wounding thousands of innocent people including women and children.

President L. B. Johnson, Defence Secretary McNamara, State Secretary Dean Rusk, General Westmoreland and other U.S. political and military leaders are guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Vietnam, for which they will never be forgiven. They have used poison gases and chemical warfare. They have deliberately destroyed the people's crops and food supplies. They have dropped huge quantities of bombs, including napalm, phosphorus and fragmentation bombs, to kill and terrorise civilians. They have destroyed hundreds of villages and herded the inhabitants into concentration camps. They have been responsible for the torturing and murder of innumerable captured civilians and prisoners of war.

In common with the overwhelming majority of the world's people, we demand an immediate end to American aggression and intervention and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Vietnam. We demand peace and self-determination for Vietnam in terms of the Geneva Agreements, and the four-point and five-point proposals

advanced by the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam.

II. In the face of this most frightful attack, the people of Vietnam under the leadership of the National Liberation Front in the South and the Ho Chi Minh government in the North, have responded with an iron determination, military skill and devotion to freedom which are an inspiration to all who love freedom, and in particular to those who are themselves the victims of oppression. To the 14 million non-White people of South Africa, ruled by a racist regime of terror, the resolute stand of the people of Vietnam is a glorious example and a guarantee that we too, like all oppressed people, can and shall win our freedom.

We pledge ourselves to unremitting efforts to rally the people of our country for the support of their brothers and sisters in Vietnam. Despite the fascist bans on free speech in South Africa and the Vorster government's servile support for U.S. gangsterdom, the people of South Africa must learn the truth about Vietnam, whose struggle for freedom is one with our own struggle against imperialism and national oppression.

III. The fight to end imperialist aggression and secure independence, peace and freedom in Vietnam, is a cause of central international importance to all peoples. No more crucial single task faces the world's working class, peace, national liberation and other progressive movements than to help Vietnam repel the invaders and secure her people's rights.

This central task urgently calls for the unity and common action of all anti-imperialist and progressive forces. The Central Committee of the South African Communist Party makes a renewed appeal to all democratic, progressive, revolutionary and anti-imperialist forces—and in the first place, to all our comrades of the international communist movement—to unite in defence of Vietnam—the cause of all freedom-loving mankind.

The U.S. must quit Vietnam!

Long live free and independent Vietnam!