



THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

REMARKS

**by Ambassador Dang Hoang Giang, Permanent Representative
of Viet Nam to the United Nations at the 50th Anniversary
of Peace & Social Progress in Viet Nam**

(New York, 03 May 2025)

Comrades and Friends,

1. I am truly honored and happy to be here in this wonderful gathering of comrades, sisters and brothers to commemorate the 50th anniversary of peace and reunification of Viet Nam.

Allow me to extend my deepest and warmest gratitude to the dedicated Host Committee and generous sponsors for convening this very meaningful event. For me, this is also a celebration of the priceless camaraderie and unparalleled support accorded to Viet Nam through all these years, in good and bad times alike.

I wish to thank my dear colleagues, *hermanos y compañeros* - Ambassador Ernesto of Cuba and Ambassador Jaime of Nicaragua – among many other friends, for joining us in this celebration.

Comrades and Friends,

2. April the Thirtieth 1975 is one of the most significant milestones in the history of the Viet Nam, marking the end of a tragic war and ushering in a new era of peace, reunification, independence and development.

This historic triumph was not only the result of the resilient will, fervent patriotism, immense sacrifices of the Vietnamese people and the selfless support of the Soviet Union and the Socialist Bloc, but also the fruit of the global anti-war alliance and movement for national liberation. Among them were the American people, who stood for peace, democracy, and social progress.

3. Viet Nam's Resistance War against U.S. imperialism – or more commonly known as the Vietnam War - remains one of the longest and most brutal armed conflicts in the history of Viet Nam and mankind. It inflicted unimaginable pain and suffering upon the Vietnamese people, on both sides of the 17th Parallel.

Despite having to fight a disproportionately powerful enemy with the most sophisticated weaponry, the Vietnamese people and People's Army, inspired by the unwavering aspiration for independence and unification and President Ho Chi Minh's spirit of *"nothing is more precious than independence and freedom"*, persevered and achieved the ultimate victory.

4. Following the war's end, Viet Nam had to confront its devastating aftermath: near-total destruction of infrastructure, an exhausted economy, the lingering threats of unexploded bombs and landmines, the generational effects of Agent Orange, unjustified sanctions and prolonged embargo, among many other hardships and adversities.

Nonetheless, driven by a spirit of self-reliance and deep yearning for peace, Viet Nam embarked upon a comprehensive reform – Đổi mới, overcame the blockade and normalized relations with the United States in 1995.

This paved the way for a new chapter in the two countries' bilateral ties, culminating in the establishment of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2023.

5. After 50 years of reunification, nearly 4 decades of renovation, and 30 years of normalized U.S.-Viet Nam relations, Viet Nam has achieved historic accomplishments in economic development, social progress and international stature.

From a war-torn, impoverished nation, Viet Nam has emerged as a developing country approaching upper-middle income status, deeply integrated into the global economy and political system. The country's independence, unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity remain firmly upheld.

In 2024, Viet Nam ranked thirty-second globally in terms of GDP and is among the top 20 countries in trade and foreign investment volumes. The people's quality of life has vastly improved, reflected through the surging Human Development Index.

Viet Nam's foreign relations have continuously expanded, having established formal diplomatic relations with one hundred and ninety-one out of one hundred and ninety-two United Nations' member states. It is also playing an increasingly constructive role in major international organizations, contributing to international peace, security and development.

Comrades and Friends,

6. Along Viet Nam's journey from war to peace and prosperity, the support and solidarity of the American people and international

friends have always been a great source of encouragement and strength for the Vietnamese people.

Regardless of class, background, religion and color, they have shared our burning desire for peace. Countless of social activists, intellectuals, students, workers, veterans of the war, artists, journalists, lawmakers... bravely spoke out and took action, demanding the U.S. government to end an unjust and inhumane war. Many of them traveled to Viet Nam amidst bombings to understand firsthand the horrors of war and the Vietnamese people's struggle for national independence and unification. They spoke truth to power, championing the Vietnamese people's right to peace, independence, and justice. They gave invaluable material and moral support during our darkest days after the war.

We will always remember the late 1960s and early 1970s, when millions across the United States, especially in major cities like New York, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco, took to the streets to protest against the war. Thousands of young Americans joined the draft card burnings and the Moratorium movement. Numerous anti-war organizations, movements and networks were born. Many led by leftist activists, intellectuals, students, and veterans, African Americans, Latinos and Asian Americans, including the Anti Vietnam War Friends, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Communist Party USA, Workers World Party, Students for a Democratic Society, United States Servicemen's Fund, and the GI Underground Press, Asian American Political Alliance, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, the Black Panther Party, among many others...

Many outstanding anti-war activists and peace advocates became enduring symbols of courage and conscience. The people of Viet Nam never forget those who gave their lives for this cause:

- Norman Morrison, who self-immolated on November the second 1965 before the Pentagon in protest of the war at just 31 years old;

- Roger Allen LaPorte, a 22-year-old Catholic peace activist, who self-immolated on November the ninth 1965 before the UN Headquarters;

- Merle Ratner, who hung a banner from the Statue of Liberty in protest of the war and has devoted her entire life to Viet Nam;

- Vietnamese students studying in the U.S. in the 1960s and 1970s and academics like Noam Chomsky and Howard Zinn inspired a generation of anti-war voices;

- Veterans such as Barry Romo, David Cortright, Eugene Wilber and David Cline, once soldiers in Viet Nam, became powerful advocates for peace;

- Legends like Muhammad Ali, who refused military service to oppose the war, sacrificing fame and career for moral conviction;

- Joan Baez, the singer and peace activist, who raised her voice for Viet Nam and stood beside our people in the North during the bombing of Hanoi, and the Berrigan brothers, priests and peace activists who burned draft records in protest.

The list would go on and on....

7. The anti-war flame also ignited and spread across continents, Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America..., all rallying to support the small but indomitable nation of Viet Nam fighting for peace, freedom, independence and justice.

Deeply imprinted in the minds of the Vietnamese people were the image of Fidel Castro in his historic visit to the liberated zone in central Quang Tri province in 1973 and his immortal saying “For Viet Nam, Cuba is willing to devote its blood”.

There was also valuable mutual support and inspiration between Viet Nam’s Resistance War and the Sandinista movement during the latter’s overthrowing of the Somoza dictatorship.

8. In the years of embargo and hardship after the war, it was the progressive lawmakers, anti-war veterans, and humanitarian organizations in the United States that tirelessly helped Vietnamese people and called for an end to the embargo.

Under the call of Cora Weiss, American friends raised funds to buy and transport 10,000 tons of flour to support the Vietnamese people on a ship named “peace shipment”.

Prominent figures like John Kerry, Patrick Leahy, Tom Harkin, and John McCain... shared a common desire for reconciliation and were pivotal in the U.S. decision to normalize relations with Viet Nam on July 11, 1995.

9. We are also grateful for the enduring efforts of U.S. organizations and individuals in addressing war legacies. Tens of millions of dollars have been provided by the U.S. government and NGOs for bomb and mine clearance, especially in central provinces.

Organizations like Veterans for Peace, December 12 Movement, Democratic Socialists of America, Liberation Road, North Star Socialist Organization, Ford Foundation, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Viet Left Power and many community groups have directly supported or advocated for post-war humanitarian, education, and health programs.

Groups like the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign, War Legacies Project and Children of Viet Nam, along with hundreds of scientists, doctors, and activists, have fought to ensure recognition and assistance for Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange, a haunting legacy of the war. Projects to clean up dioxin at Da Nang and Bien Hoa airports, funded and executed with U.S. cooperation, are testaments to a transition from confrontation to humanitarian cooperation.

Comrades and Friends,

10. Today, we are honored to reunite with those who lived that history, who shaped it and made it possible: Collette Pean, Cora Weiss, Susan Schnall, Ngô Thanh Nhàn... Please forgive me if I miss other names.

We are also delighted to witness the generational continuation of this solidarity with new faces: Bhairavi Desai, Ani Toncheva, Claire Tran, Nancy Nguyen..., who pledge to write the next chapters of friendship, cooperation and mutual support for peace and progress.

11. Let me close with the words of General Secretary Tô Lâm, delivered on April the thirtieth 2025, in Ho Chi Minh City:

“We sincerely thank the immense, invaluable, righteous, heartfelt, loyal, and steadfast support of our international brothers, comrades, and friends, the progressive forces and peace-loving peoples around the world for the cause of national liberation and reunification of the Vietnamese people.”

History may close the pages of sorrow, but the symbols of international solidarity, of courage, and of human conscience will remain forever. On behalf of the Party, the State, and the people of Viet Nam, I express our eternal and heartfelt gratitude to all of you true friends of Viet Nam. Thank you for standing on the side of justice when it mattered most. Thank you for not staying silent. Thank you for inspiring the belief that peace and humanity can transcend all borders.

Thank you./.