Two Crucial Issues

President Ho Chi Minh's appeal on the occasion of July 26 reaffirmed in clearest terms the Vietnamese people's position regarding the two crucial issues now under discussion within the Viet Nam settlement: the withdrawal of American troops and the holding of general elections in South Viet Nam.

Everybody knows how obstinate the ruling circles in Washington are on both issues. Prompted by their desire to cling to South Viet Nam at any cost, they have been refusing to withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from there. Visibly trying to touch the chauvinistic nerve of the American people, Henry Cabot Lodge declared at the 25th session of the Paris Conference that such a withdrawal would be tantamount to a "capitulation". So, after having committed an armed aggression against South Viet Nam and occupied militarily her territory, the American chauvinists are excusing a price for the cessation of such aggression and occupation, and this price is precisely the permission given to them to impose their neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam by either political methods.

To soothe U.S. public opinion which has been pressing for the repatriation of the GIs, President Nixon recently opened a safety-valve by ordering that 40,000 U.S. troops be pulled out, which is in essence a "trickery", as President Ho Chi Minh put it in his appeal. This move, so loudly ballyhooed by Washington's propaganda machine, was also aimed at making people believe that the U.S. plan to "Vietnamize" the war was in a groove. But nobody was taken in: if so many elite U.S. divisions had been badly trained in South Viet Nam, how could puppet soldiers with no morale assume their combat burden?

President Ho Chi Minh has made exceptionally plain the Vietnamese people's demand: "The Vietnamese people firmly demand the withdrawal of all U.S. and satellite troops, not the withdrawal of only 25,000 or 50,000 or 100,000 men, but a total, complete, unconditional withdrawal."

Turning to the question of future general elections in South Viet Nam, President Ho Chi Minh pointed out in his appeal: "After the total withdrawal of the U.S. and satellite troops and the complete liberation of South Viet Nam from foreign invasion, the Provisional Coalition Government, as provided for in the (NFL-Ed.) ten-point overall solution, will organize free and democratic general elections to enable the South Vietnamese people to determine themselves their own political regime, elect a constituent assembly, work out a Constitution and set up the official coalition government of South Viet Nam, without any foreign country being allowed to interfere. And he stressed: "So long as U.S. troops and the puppet administration remain in existence in South Viet Nam, really free and democratic general elections will be absolutely impossible."

(Continued on page 2)

South Viet Nam

Repeated PLAF Attacks in Saigon Periphery, South of DMZ and Western High Plateaux.

○ PLAF onset on My Tho town, on base of US Division 9 and on 6 sub-sectors: 700 enemy troops put out of action.

○ Enemy convoy on Highway No 13 ambushed: 62 vehicles destroyed, 200 GI casualties.

○ Many columns of US Airborne Division 101 intercepted at A Bia (Northwest): 280 GIs killed, 11 aircraft downed.

○ A Civil guard company wiped out southwest of Da Lat, 30 military vehicles wrecked on Road No 19 (East of Pleiku).

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- In "De-Americanizing" the War, Washington Admits U.S. Failure in South Viet Nam.

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- South Viet Nam and the Anniversary of the Signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements
In our time science and technique is making giant strides. In the conquest of the space, started by the Soviet Union, marvellous feats have been achieved in a very short time. The first socialist country succeeded on Oct. 4, 1957 in launching the first man-made satellite of the earth and on April 19, 1961 in performing the flight of Cosmonaut Gagarin, thus opening new way into the space. Since then, the Soviet Union has not ceased making valuable contributions to world science and technique for the knowledge of the cosmos and the celestial bodies of the solar system, from the "synchronous" of cl-se to our earth to Mars and many other planets discovered from the Earth by millions of kilometres.

At present, by landing men on the moon, the United States has accomplished an outstanding feat of exploration. It is the result of the work of many scientists and technicians, of tens of thousands of workers and of a great number of cosmonauts in the United States. It constitutes an impressive evidence of the conquest of the space by man. It cannot be viewed separately from the achievements of human science and technique that those of the Soviet Union in the field of cosmos science.

While correctly assessing the new feat of American science and technique, world progressive opinion is not failed to expose the Nixon administration's taking advantage of the landing of the two Americans on the moon to dissemble his policy will for peace*. In the last few days, by every means and tricks, the United States has been using the Apollo 11 performance for war purposes, at once "sensational" and "spectacular". The label "in the moon" in an attempt to cover up U.S. imperialist war plans.

But the world peoples are not easily taken. Fully aware of the true nature and reactionary policy of U.S. imperialism, they are looking not at the moon but at U.S. deeds on the earth. The fact that U.S. imperialists are carrying on their policy of oppression, exploitation, aggression and enslavement whenever they set foot on the earth can be found in the persistence of the aggressive acts which U.S. imperialism is also committing in the colonies and semi-colonies of the third world. The U.S. imperialists are not only responsible for the downfall of the Vietnamese people who are fighting for their freedom and national independence, the destruction of the peoples of Cuba, the Philippines, and Indonesia and the independence of the peoples of the Guatemalan atrocities in South Vietnam and subordinately opposing the overall solution, so sensible and reasonable, put forward by the South Vietnam NLF and Provisional Revolutionary Government.

The American government must understand that so long as the U.S. is not willing to stop its ultra-imperialist and unconditionally all American and satellite troops from South Vietnam, to leave the South Vietnamese people to settle their own affairs, without foreign interference, the Vietnamese people have to carry on their war of aggression, and no display of force, no tighter war block can weaken their resolve.

Some people may think that since the U.S. has been able to send men to the moon, there are hardly any problem on the earth that it cannot solve. But the fact is that while U.S. science and technique has attained such heights in relation to the moon, the means by which circles are at a loss to find a way out of the general crisis and unavoidable collapse of the capitalist system, neither is at hand in the Vietnam war nor in the world.

The DRVN envoy reaffirmed that in fighting against U.S. aggression, the South Vietnamese people were only acting by their own right of self-defense. The U.S. demand for "mutual troops withdrawal" was many times condemned and rejected by the DRVN delegation as utterly unreasonable.

After recalling the Vietnamese people's position as it was expounded in President Ho Chi Minh's appeal on the occasion of July 4th to concern that the withdrawal of American force from South Vietnam would be one of general elections in South Vietnam, the DRVN chief negotiator declared that the honour of the United States lay precisely in an end to this tragedy that the Viet Nam war was, and which was brought about by the United States.

Once again, he rejected the "free elections" in South Vietnam proposed by Nguyen Van Thieu and the "election committee". In reaffirming the DRVN government's statement that it was ready to accept the overall solution put forward by the NLF, he concluded that if the Nixon administration really wanted peace, there would be no reason why it should not take these ten points as a basis for a peaceful settlement of the war and the restoration of peace in South Vietnam.

The speech delivered by President Ho Chi Minh was addressed on the 27th Plenary Session of the South Vietnam Rep. FRG, also highlighted the soundness of the NLF proposal and the United States' support, and set a limit at-ended at emitting this offer, and a completely new proposal which the United States should be prepared to make. After the speech of President Ho Chi Minh, the U.S. negotiator Nguyen Van Thieu, General Wheeler, U.S. Joint Chief of Staffs, the South Vietnam Rep. President, Nixon had sent to him South Vietnam to drive ahead the implementation of the maximum military pressure policy on the South Vietnamese people. President Ho Chi Minh's speech, the U.S. strategy and the policy of "maximum military pressure" were revealed.

The speech by President Ho Chi Minh was an attack, and that therefore, by the end of 1970, the U.S. would not be able to pull out all its troops from South Vietnam; as regards U.S. naval and air forces, they should station for a longer time in South Vietnam; as regards the U.S. military, they should return to South Vietnam; as regards the U.S. military, they should return to South Vietnam.