



Research Article

PUBLIC OPINION OF THE SOVIET UNION SUPPORT VIETNAM IN THE WAR AGAINST THE US (1954-1975)

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ASBTRACT

In the war against the US of the Vietnamese people, the agreement and support of international public opinion, especially the public opinion of the Soviet Union, was one of the important factors contributing to the victory of the Vietnamese people. The article analyses and clarifies the support of the Soviets in the Vietnam War and condemns and denounces the crimes of American imperialism and its henchmen in the Vietnam War with the progressive people of the world. The article also points out that Soviet public opinion has also made the world understand the sinister nature of US imperialism in the Vietnam War, as well as the justification of the resistance war of the Vietnamese people in the great process of liberating the South and unifying the country.

Keywords: support; the public opinion of the Soviet Union; the war against the US; Vietnam

1. Introduction

In the period 1954-1975, Vietnam was the place where the historical clash of time and great international stature took place, between one side, the US imperialism with the strongest economic and military potential, and the other side, the Vietnamese people with the will to national independence and unification, firmly fighting with the determination "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." To defeat a strong invading empire like the United States, Vietnam had mobilized all sources of national strength, while at the same time taking advantage of international support, including national public opinion and the leading public opinion of the Soviet Union. Many classes of people, the leaders of the Party and State of the Soviet Union, the people, intellectuals, scientists, and students of the Soviet Union have had many activities with many different forms to protest the invasion of US imperialism and create a strong public opinion wave in favor of the Vietnamese people. The war in Vietnam was far gone, but the lessons about taking advantage of and

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promoting the strength of international public opinion for accomplishing the revolutionary goals are still valid.

2. Results

2.1. The Soviet public opinion supported the righteous struggle of the Vietnamese people before the American imperialist invasion (1954-1975)

With the spirit of love for peace, freedom, and justice, the Soviet people have given the Vietnamese people precious affection, paid attention, and supported the struggle for a national reunion of the Vietnamese people. In the perspective of moving towards an international conference to end the war and restore peace in Indochina in 1954, the Soviet Union, from the outset, "fundamentally wanted the democratic republic of Vietnam to achieve independence and reunification" (Vu, 2023, p. 340) because "a strong communist nation in Southeast Asia would be advantageous to the Soviet Union as well as the socialist bloc" (Vu, 2023, p.340). During the resistance against U.S. imperialist invasion, this supportive spirit continued to be strengthened, both materially and spiritually. The sense of supporting and understanding Vietnam infuses every Soviet people, i.e., from Soviet leaders to scientists, artists, and young people; from the Communist Party members to the students. There are many forms of the Soviet people's support for Vietnam against America. From simple forms such as petitions supporting Vietnam, through statements, sending notes, emails, and letters, and making calls to demonstrations and rallies against the invasion of US imperialism. These supports contributed a great spiritual encouragement to the resistance war against the US of the Vietnamese people.

When the US imperialist intervened in South Vietnam, the leaders of the Party and State of the Soviet Union repeatedly affirmed the support of the Soviet Union in the issue of Vietnam and they always considered helping Vietnam to fight aggression as their obligation. "The Soviet Union has obligations to many countries but always puts obligations towards Vietnam first" (Party Central Archives, Table of Contents No.1, File No.126). In particular, as one of the two presidents of the Geneva Conference in 1954, the Soviet government was always interested in the implementation of the Geneva Agreement in Indochina. On January 8, 1962, the Soviet government sent a letter to the British Government, the President of the Geneva Conference, on the implementation of the Geneva Agreement in Vietnam. The Soviet government also opposed the American imperialist intervention in South Vietnam and fully supported the legitimate requests of the Vietnamese people in the spirit of the Geneva Agreement.

Speech by Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, at the meeting to welcome the delegation of the Communist Party of the people of Hanoi capital on 7/2/1965 emphasized that People of the Soviet Union fully supports the righteous struggle of the Vietnamese brothers. Support for the Soviet Union was also confirmed in the joint declarations between Vietnam and the Soviet Union on

February 10, 1965, on the occasion of A.N. Kosygin, a member of the Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union visiting Vietnam. The declaration stated, “The Soviet government will not be indifferent to the security of the fraternal socialist country and will have the necessary help and support for the communist Democratic Vietnam” (Party Central Archives, Table of Contents No.3, File No.1621, p.117).

Through joint statements, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Government of the Soviet Union continue to affirm the spirit of solidarity with the Vietnamese people and emphasize:

When requested by the Democratic Republic Government of Vietnam, the government of the Soviet Union would allow the citizens of the Soviet Union to come to Vietnam, these citizens with a proletarian international spirit expressed their aspirations to fight for the righteous cause of the Vietnamese people. (Party Central Archives, Table of Contents No.3, File No.1622, p. 180).

When the US imperialists expanded the war to the North of Vietnam on December 9, 1965, the Soviet Union issued a statement expressing their firm stance in support of Vietnam: The heroic struggle of the Vietnam people against the invasion of American imperialists for freedom and independence, an example of resilient will and tough courage, has the unanimity and complete support of all the peace-loving peoples in the world. To fulfill their international obligations, in the war against American imperialism, the people of the Soviet Union are and will continue to give the Vietnam people all the necessary help (Women Publishing House, 1966, p. 9).

Emphasizing such great international obligations, in the talk with President Nguyen Huu Tho of Vietnam, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev (November 7, 1969), General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union insists that the Party, Government, and people of the Soviet Union fully support the 10-point solution of the National Front for the Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam and it is the right, proper, and reasonable basis to solve the problem of South Vietnam. The Party, Government, and people of the Soviet Union firmly claimed that “American imperialism has to withdraw all American troops and vassals unconditionally from South Vietnam, ensuring and respecting the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the self-determination of the people of South Vietnam” (Tran, 1978, p.248).

The support of the Soviet Union people for the war against the US of the Vietnamese people continued to grow with rallies and demonstrations throughout the Soviet towns and countryside. “On December 8 and 9, 1965, more than 35 thousand people in the capital of Moscow had a meeting to firmly support Vietnam. The Soviet Union's mass organizations consecutively issued statements supporting the righteous struggle of the Vietnamese people” (Luu, 1967, p. 11). Many Soviet delegations attending international conferences condemned American imperialism, exposed the US's bluffed peace rhetoric, and demanded that the US

withdraw all their troops and weapons from South Vietnam and put an end to the bombings and bombardment of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Through the statements and resolutions of the rally in support of Vietnam and tens of thousands of letters, and telegrams, Soviet Women's Committee, Women's Committee of the Republics, Women's Committee Factory, and schools demonstrated solidarity with the Vietnamese people. At the World Women's Congress (June 1969) in Helsinki, V.N. Tereshkova - President of the USSR Women Committee said:

We ensure that the people of the Soviet Union, the women of the Soviet Union, stand side by side with the Vietnamese women in the righteous struggle for freedom and independence for the country without avoiding any effort to promote victory and completely reach the Vietnamese people. Whether in suffering or tribulation, we always stand by you. At any moment, we are ready to help you (Women Publishing House, 1977, p.11).

During a meeting to welcome the delegation of Soviet women to visit Vietnam (October 1971), V.N. Tereshkova, President of the USSR Women Committee considered the struggle of Vietnam people against invasion as their struggle and would forever stand on Vietnam's side until the righteous cause completely won. Every year, on July 20, the day that the world people support the struggle for peace to unify the homeland of the Vietnamese people, the USSR Women's Committee and mass organizations organize the week and month of "solidarity with Vietnam." Particularly in 1969, the mass organizations in the Soviet Union decided to be "a year to support the Vietnam fight." Many meetings, conferences, and activities to print books, photos, and postcards for introducing the situation of Vietnam as well as sending letters calling for and encouraging American women to fight against the war invading Vietnam... were held everywhere in the Soviet Union.

Many women artists from the Soviet Union also gave the Vietnamese people close affection. Uococn, a writer Maia Casen, who learned Vietnamese, composed a book of poems about Nguyen Van Troi and translated many books into Ucren. Or as the writer and heroine of the Soviet Union, Irina Lepchenko visited the North of Vietnam and wrote many autographs praising the "army of long hair," praising the female soldiers and heroines of North and South Vietnam." In the letter of a woman in the Vongagratt factory, there is a passage, "Even in our suffering and in tribulation, we are always with you. At any moment, we are ready to help you" (Women Publishing House, 1977, p.11).

Many articles, plays, radio broadcasts, songs, movies, music, and poems denounce the crimes of American imperialism and praise the Vietnamese people, fostering the Vietnamese people's war against the US. The publishers in the Soviet Union, from the central to the provinces, widely published books, magazines, artistic works, and artworks about Vietnam, many of which were translated into languages to propagate and widely broadcast the righteous resistance war of the Vietnamese people.

Therefore, in the resistance war against the US, the Vietnamese people received the support of the majority of the public of the Soviet Union, forming a world people's front widely opposing the US and supporting Vietnam.

2.2. The Soviet public opinion condemned the crimes of American imperialism and the Saigon government against the Vietnamese people

Along with the Soviet public opinion supporting the Vietnamese people in the war against the US, a wave of public opinion, strongly opposing and condemning the crimes of the US and the Saigon puppet government when using malicious tricks to kill civilians, bombing and destroying Vietnam, was happening, and thus contributing to promoting the world people's movement against the US and supporting Vietnam's development.

Through the media, the press, news, and images of the Vietnam War widely disseminated to the people of all countries around the world, the Soviet Union has helped to clarify the meaninglessness of the Vietnam War as America invaded Vietnam, and also clarify the righteous nature of the resistance war of the Vietnamese people. The atrocities that the US imperialists took place in Vietnam such as scenes of arrest, murder of innocent people, the slaughter of the Vietnamese people, including children and women, bombs rained down on Quang Tri and Cu Chi Vinh Linh... or the B52 carpet spreading destroying the North and millions of liters of chemicals, deadly toxic chemicals sprayed on the forests of Vietnam... are distributed around the world.

From politicians in the government and mass organizations to the masses of the people of the Soviet Union were opposed to the American imperialists' invasion of Vietnam. In a letter to the National Assembly of Vietnam on January 4, 1962, the Federal Institute and the Institute for Ethnic Minorities in the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union condemned the US imperialist intervention in South Vietnam and demanded the US stop interfering in Vietnam's internal affairs and to withdraw military personnel from South Vietnam.

During the official visit to the Soviet Union from April 10, 1965 to July 17, 1965 by First Secretary Le Duan, the two sides issued a joint statement affirming:

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The Soviet government firmly condemned the acts of robbery of the US imperialism in the Indochina region, condemned their army interference against the South Vietnamese people who loved freedom, and condemned the US imperialism's actions of swooping and robbing" (Party Central Archives, Table of Contents No. 3, File No. 1622, p.180)

Especially as the US imperialism used toxic chemicals in the Vietnam War. This led to the opposed wave of international public opinion across the continents. On March 24, 1963, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union gave the British Ambassador in Moscow a note stating the concern of the Soviet Government about the US use of toxic chemicals in Vietnam. The Soviet government called on the British government and the Soviet Union as two presidents of the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indochina to take measures to investigate this matter.

In the letter of the Soviet Government to the US Embassy in Moscow on March 26, 1965, it emphasized:

The US government must understand that the use of gas, poison gas, and many other poisonous things has long been forbidden and condemned by people all over the world, and this is regulated by international law. The US government needs to realize its full responsibility for committing crimes against the Vietnamese people and the consequences caused by this (Nhan Dan Newspaper, 1965, p.4).

On August 3, 1962, the Soviet Asia-African Solidarity Committee signed a joint statement with the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam convicting the crimes of invasion by US imperialism, agreeing and supporting the righteous fight of the Vietnamese people. The statement emphasizes:

The struggle of the people of South Vietnam to realize independence, democracy, peace, and neutrality is completely in line with the spirit of the 1954 Geneva Conference on Vietnam... The US imperialists must immediately suspend their armed forces and withdraw all US and military troops, military advisors, weapons, and means of war from South Vietnam (Tran, 1968, p.442).

Since 1966, the spirit of support of Vietnam has become one of the daily activities of all political and social organizations, government agencies at all levels, and the media.

Two congresses of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union issued statements in support of the Vietnamese people, condemning the US invasion, the Supreme Council of Soviets - 4 times; the Government - 11 times; the TASS news agency - 12 times; The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union sent a note to protest against the US three times... (Nguyen Thi Mai Hoa, 2013, pp.227-228). "The Soviet Union and the countries participating in the Warsaw Pact issued 7 statements and the parties issued 4 statements condemning the US and supporting Vietnam" (Nguyen, 2013, pp. 227-228).

The Pravda newspaper, on May 22, 1966, published the call of the 15th Congress of the Soviet Leninist Communist Youth Union to send progressive youth in all countries during the US invasion of Vietnam indifferent impossibilities to what was happening in Vietnam. The call denounced the US imperialist's policy of escalating and expanding the war with brutal bombings of Vietnamese cities and villages, using terrible means of destruction like bombs napalm and chemical poison and killing tens of thousands of fake tools, children, destroying houses, schools, hospitals are unforgivable crimes. Therefore, all progressive youth organizations, please consolidate action unity, and solidarity, fight in the solid solidarity front to protect the righteous struggle of the Vietnamese people, together with the whole human race to prevent the American invaders, from forcing them to leave Vietnam.

The spirit of supporting Vietnam and condemning US imperialism to expand the war of invasion of North Vietnam, especially the bombing and bombardment of populous places on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, continues to be clearly stated in the Declaration of the Participants of the Consultative Conference of the Communist Party and

Workers of Moscow about the events in Vietnam, which was published in Pravda newspaper, on 3 March 1965. This declaration affirms that these actions are "conspiracy to use violence to suppress the national liberation movement are blatant insults of the spiritual right of the peoples who have right to decide for their destiny" (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1983, p.702) and demanded that the US has to withdraw American troops and vassals from South Vietnam and put an end to the military attack on the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The masses of the Soviet people also pronounced their opposition to the American imperialist invasion of Vietnam. Many intellectuals and scientists in the Soviet Union also strongly condemned the US's brutality in South Vietnam. Doctor of jurisprudence, Arkady Iusifovich Poltorak, a senior expert of the Institute of State and Legal under the USSR Academy of Sciences has twice visited Vietnam. Based on collecting documents and directly witnessing the crimes that US imperialism has committed against the Vietnamese people, A.I. Poltorak has written many articles strongly denouncing the war crimes of American imperialism in Vietnam. In the article "Vietnamization," the measures to pursue and expand the aggression," the author analyzed and explained the Nixon administration's conspiracies and efforts to pursue the war of aggression in Vietnam. In which, the US imperialists brutally bombed South and North Vietnam, used toxic chemicals, and especially applied the "electronic battlefield" system to destroy villages and the life of the Vietnamese people.

On March 14, 1963, Professor Miterev, Chairman of the USSR Council, sent a letter to Professor Leonon Boise, President of the International Council of the Cross, severely condemning the US and the Saigon government's spraying of toxic chemicals study in the South of Vietnam. The letter stated, "These inhumane acts violently violate the Geneva Conventions on the protection of war victims and are contrary to primitive principles of humanitarianism... and asked him to intervene to stop sinful actions and help to organize a controlled healing for the victims" (Nhan Dan Newspaper, on March 26, 1963, p.1).

Soviet writers and artists issued a statement convicting the US imperial spraying of toxic chemicals in South Vietnam as a crime. It is a violation of international law, especially the Geneva Protocol which prohibits the use of poisons, asphyxiants, and other chemicals for war purposes.

Together with the scientists, on March 9, 1963, at the Lomonosov University (Moscow), 3,000 students from the Soviet Union, Cuba, Germany, Algeria, Indonesia, Iraq, and Japan participated in the meeting organized by studying abroad Vietnamese students vehemently condemned the acts of US terrorism and their henchmen in the war of invasion of Vietnam. In just one day, there were 35,914 signatures of students from socialist countries and students from 49 countries across five continents studying in Moscow, opposing the US spraying with toxic chemicals, from students from Cambodia and Laos. India came to students from African countries such as Guinea, Morocco, Cameroon..., from European countries such as France, UK, Italy, Greece... to the Americas such as Brazil, Mexico, and

Sili... Many students and Soviet children had automatically campaigned to get signatures against the US's use of toxic chemicals in Vietnam. Typically, Gennady students have obtained more than 1,000 signatures; many other students have the slogan "The American imperialists invaded South Vietnam."

In the resolution of the graduate student group, students of the Polytechnic Institute in Leningrad to the International Commission in Vietnam, on March 23, 1963, requested an investigation of US crimes against human beings with Vietnamese people, especially the use of toxic chemicals as a means in the Vietnam War and demanded urgent intervention from the International Commission to force the US and the Saigon government to immediately stop using toxic chemicals as a means in the war of invasion of Vietnam.

In the face of the American imperialist's conspiracies and invasions, the Soviet Women's Committee issued several statements strongly convicting the crimes of the US and the Saigon government such as:

The poisoning of thousands of patriots of Vietnam in Phu Loi prison, the Son My massacre, the murder of Le Thi Rieng, vice president of the Women's Union for the Liberation of South Vietnam, convicts bombardment and poisoning genocide South Vietnam, dropping mines in Hai Phong ports and other Vietnamese ports, bombing and bombarding North Vietnam (Women Publishing House, 1977, p.10).

Thus, in the years 1954-1975, the Soviet public opinion convicted the crimes of US imperialism against the Vietnamese people on a large, continuous, exciting scale and attracted assembly participation, and in various forms. On that basis, closely coordinating and uniting with public opinion and people of socialist countries, progressive and peace-loving people in the world is to form a vast public opinion battlefield and step by step isolate American imperialism in the international arena, promoting the development of the world people's movement against the US imperialists' invasion of Vietnam.

3. Conclusion

The public opinion of the Soviet Union supporting Vietnam was one of the important factors contributing to the victory of the resistance war of the Vietnamese people against the American imperialist invasion in the years 1954-1975. With the meaning of fighting for peace, national independence, and social progress, the Soviet people's support for Vietnam and opposition to the US imperialist invasion attracted a large number of participating forces. Not only workers and peasants, intellectuals, and communist party members but also Soviet leaders, socio-political organizations, freedom-loving forces, and peace-loving forces justice with many rich forms of support have contributed to the creation of a large public opinion battle, spreading from the Soviet Union and developing around the world.

Although the war has gone, the Vietnamese people's victory in the war against the US invasion is still valid and has the power to move and motivate people. In particular, the statements, letters, telegrams, notes, statements or pages of books, and newspapers of the majority of the Soviet people at that time showed us more thoroughly the position, meaning,

and great stature of the precious support of the Soviet people for Vietnam. In that sense, the Vietnamese people are forever deeply grateful to the beloved Soviet people, for always agreeing, supporting, helping, and accompanying the Vietnamese people in the war against the US invasion. That is also the best testament to the friendship and lasting cooperation between the two countries.

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**DỰ LUẬN LIÊN XÔ ỦNG HỘ VIỆT NAM
TRONG KHÁNG CHIẾN CHỐNG MỸ (1954-1975)**

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TÓM TẮT

Trong cuộc kháng chiến chống Mỹ của nhân dân Việt Nam, sự đồng tình, ủng hộ của dư luận quốc tế, nhất là dư luận Liên Xô là một trong những nhân tố quan trọng góp phần làm nên thắng lợi của nhân dân ta. Bài báo này phân tích, chỉ rõ sự đồng tình ủng hộ của dư luận Liên Xô đối với cuộc kháng chiến chống Mỹ của nhân dân Việt Nam; lên án, tố cáo tội ác của Mỹ và tay sai trong chiến tranh Việt Nam trước nhân dân tiến bộ toàn thế giới; từ đó, dư luận Liên Xô đã làm cho nhân dân thế giới hiểu rõ được bản chất thâm độc của Mỹ trong cuộc chiến tranh Việt Nam, cũng như tính chất chính nghĩa trong cuộc kháng chiến của nhân dân Việt Nam đối với sự nghiệp giải phóng miền Nam, thống nhất đất nước.

Từ khóa: ủng hộ; dư luận Liên Xô; kháng chiến chống Mỹ; Việt Nam