

# **MEMORANDUM**

Submitted by Trương Tấn Sang,

President of Vietnam

Good evening ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you all for attending the summit that I shall be hosting tonight. My name is Truong Tan Sang and tonight I will be discussing Vietnam's relevance of the Cold War in today's geopolitical systems. I believe that the Cold War has not yet terminated in countries such as Vietnam. My paradigm will be quite clear when I support my reasoning with today's economy, geography, human rights and political changes.

### Economy

Vietnam has gone through a lot, especially during the cold war. During the early stages of the cold war Vietnam was going through a economic crisis. In Vietnam the state controlled all foreign trade and internal trade was limited by the government as well. There were only very few state-owned textile stores, like in Hanoi there is only 2 state-owned textile shops. There were some very cruel aspects of the economy as well, like those who moved to South of Vietnam got the land that they owned snatched away from them; Due to policy of land reform. North Vietnam was also trying to gain control in urban population. During 1955 North Vietnam imported more goods than the South of Vietnam, a lot of Vietnamese merchants and craftsmen were very dependent on raw material that were imported from metropolitan countries. Ever since Vietnam signed the Franco-DRV commercial agreement things have gone downhill from there. Slowly the cost of many goods have increased, because Vietnam was not getting enough imports from France. From that time on, Vietnam is still a developing country today. Vietnam's economy today is improving and is still developing day by day, Vietnam has had to recover from many severe wars from the last 30 years. Vietnam's exports in the United States have increased

twice as much in 2007. Vietnam also joined the World Trade Organization during 2007, which should help Vietnam's economy increase. Along with all of that Vietnam is also trying to create jobs for others who have none so they can manage the labor force adequately. The Cold War is still continuing today because Vietnam is still developing and becoming modernized than capitalist countries such as the U.S.

Vietnam has a very big population, that is still developing. North Vietnam was in control of all the exports and imports for both North and South Vietnam. The two divisions of Vietnam have many differences and similarities between each other. Some differences that North and South Vietnam have is that during the French colonial time they were already separated by what they are good at producing. North Vietnam contained good industrial resources and tools which would come to good use for industrial purposes. The South of Vietnam was perfect for agriculture, and since they were poor with industrial resources they would not benefit if they were to become an industrial country. The Cold War still continues on today because there is competition between Vietnam and other capitalist countries. All countries are trying to outdo one another, whether it is in agriculture, textile, economy, military, or many other assets that are part of their country. It is as if every country has that one goal of becoming the best out of every other country.

A planned economy is a when the government dictates the state and has full control over everything. Many wonder whether Vietnam is a planned economy or not. I believe that Vietnam is a planned economy because the government has control over all the exports and imports. Vietnam is also trying to modernize their economy. They are trying to make big changes in trade and economic regime. Vietnam is still trying to recover from the Soviet Bloc, and the government is trying to create more jobs for people in Vietnam as well. The European and the Asian labor ministries are trying to create decent

jobs for young people who are looking for jobs. The government is trying there best to expand business and is trying to increase production. Another theme I will be introducing is how geography plays a role in how the Cold War still exist today.

### Geography:

During the cold war our country Vietnam, was split into two different sections. There was South Vietnam and North Vietnam. The South of Vietnam was under French colonial until 1965, which was also when Nguyen Cao KY became premier. The North of Vietnam was controlled by the Viet Minh. South Vietnam had more contact, and connections with the United States while North Vietnam was ruled by a communist leader and had contact with China and the Soviet Union. The Northern part of Vietnam was very high in mineral resources especially in anthracite coal and phosphates. Oil was found in the southern coast of Vietnam. The United States was supporting South Vietnam because they both didn't want communism to spread. The United States came up with this theory called the domino theory, which was basically the reason why they entered the war. The United States learned that communism was spreading not only from Europe but also outside in other countries. They worried that communism would spread throughout the whole south East Asia and South Vietnam. Although Northern Vietnam won over Southern Vietnam and the whole country became communist. There are differences between the two parts even today. Since Vietnam turn into a communist country the U.S domino theory still continues. This shows us that cold war isn't over in Vietnam.

Since Northern Vietnam is richer in mineral resources than the Southern Vietnam, there is still some competition and tension between both of the zones. While the cold war was going on, the Northern part of Vietnam was communism. In a country of communism all the trading and exporting

things were controlled by the government. This could be a reason why the northern part of Vietnam is richer in mineral resources. Since North Vietnam was a communist country it did not mean that they got all the goods and was the “better” zone. South Vietnam had the oil and were allies with the United States and both South Vietnam and the U.S had the same idea of Capitalism. In 1975 South Vietnam became known as the Republic of Vietnam; The people in South Vietnam had the privilege to vote. If both South and North Vietnam still have their own differences with each other, although they are one communist country then the tension between each other still remain as it was during the cold war.

Vietnam has struggled through the process of unification after the cold war supposedly ended and South Vietnam surrendered to North Vietnam. Years later since both North and South Vietnam became a whole communist country; Vietnam has also struggled in preventing their amount of trades and budgets.

### Human Right

Human rights have been seen as a big issue by many capitalist countries such as the United States. Many claim that one violation of the human rights seen throughout the timeline of Vietnam was torture. It is true that previous leaders before me used torture as a tactic in the war, however we were not the only ones doing this. I will explain by mentioning what happened back then as well as including how torture is demolished now.

During the war between the North and South of Vietnam, our country was having a great difficulty in unity. The United States were lending a hand to the South of Vietnam at that time and the North was becoming a bit desperate to gain South Vietnam’s interest back. Also it didn’t help that South Vietnam was being very stubborn and brainwashed by the U.S. Therefore the Vietnamese

Congress began to use torture as the main driving force of their campaign of terror. Randomly the VC would select South Vietnam's village chiefs and other powerful civilians to inflict pain upon and expose to intimidate Southern Vietnamese. The VC would also capture both South Vietnamese soldiers and American soldiers to confine them and gain intel out of them. For example one prisoner of war, Lieutenant James N. Rowe, was confined for several years in a small, tiger like cage in the deep base of the jungle. There he was fed a starvation diet because he had intel on him that was precious to VC. But you have to understand that this tactic was originally gained from the American soldiers themselves. At first the Americans were winning this war. However by copying their tactics, we Vietnamese were able to dismiss the Americans. The brutality of these tortures inflicted upon these soldiers have been documented to this day from both sides of the war which includes the Americans as well as the VC.

Even though past leaders of Vietnam used torture as a driving force, this is not the case today. A couple decades after the Vietnam War ended, Vietnam made some efforts by altering the constitution of 1992. In chapter 5, the document claims prohibition of torture, freedoms of association and assembly, belief, religion, and press. For instance the constitution declares that, "It is strictly forbidden to use all forms of harassment, and coercion, torture, violation of his honor and dignity, against a citizen." There are several documents regarding to keeping the protection of human rights This was reviewed by the legal framework for Human rights protection in Vietnam by the U.S. In 2008, the U.S State department's human rights reported on Vietnam and revealed that "Vietnam's human rights record remained unsatisfactory." The United States is just using Human rights as an excuse to make problems with Vietnam. Yes, it is true that the human rights back then weren't very solid, however I confirm to everyone that Vietnamese citizens are contented today with the way they are living in my country. Since

we are communism today and still embrace the victory we have gained from the Americans, the U.S see this as competition. This competition ultimately proves that the cold war is not over yet between our country, Vietnam and the U.S

The U.S argues we do not give Vietnamese the freedom of press and speech. This is not entirely true. The internet does not apply to the rules of the communism way. I will explain in a minute why I think this. The communist party has complete domination over most aspects of the modern nature such as the larger society. In the fall of 2009, the Vietnamese government sent notices to the country's internet service providers demanding that they deny the access to popular social networking sites such as Facebook, Myspace, and Twitter. The reason why we have done this is because we felt that these types of social networkings had a big influence in the direction of capitalism. If we continued to let this happen, the Vietnamese of my country would start to have second thoughts about the way I run Vietnam. The citizens are already living contently. Everyone is equal in everything they do and there is no discrimination. So tell me how this is a negative thing? It is not. I, as well as the rest of Vietnam, are contented with the way Vietnam is running. The only people who have a problem with the government are the capitalist countries such as the United States. This is a big contribution in why I believe the cold war, in fact, still exists today.

From reviewing the human rights both during and after the Vietnam War, people can come to a basic conclusion that the cold war is not quite over today in Vietnam. Examining the human rights of this country will show that there are conflicts between the actions out of communism and capitalism. Take the human rights protection program for instance. The U.S, a capitalist country, is feeling the need to make changes in Vietnam based on how they feel works best in their own country. While on the other

hand, human rights organizations are not allowed and strictly prohibited even currently, today. You can tell there is still a little competition in the air between Vietnam and the U.S. Examining the human rights in Vietnam isn't the only aspect of why I believe the cold war still exists today. I will now explain how the cold war still exists today through out the political change throughout our country.

### Political Change

Ho Chi Minh followed after his father's views that Vietnam had a right to govern themselves and free itself of the colonial rule. But while Ho Chi Minh was in France he spent his time reading the works done by Karl Marx which made him convert to communism. He became one of the founder members of the French Communist party. Later Ho Chi Minh moved to China near the border of Vietnam. There he said he wanted freedom for Vietnam, but since he could not return to Vietnam he helped to organise the Vietnam revolutionary League. This league consisted of exiled Vietnamese nationalist living in exile. While the French authority was swept aside by the Japanese during WW2 Ho Chi Minh saw this as an opportunity to free Vietnam from the French. He created the Viet Minh. In 1945 Ho Chi Minh announced the making of Democratic Republic of Vietnam, but France wanted to control Vietnam and refused Ho Chi Minhs republic idea. This lead to the two sides fighting in 1964. Ho Chi Minh was accepted the leader of the Vietminh and the French wanted to end fighting. He didn't trust them. Later the battle of Dien Bien Phu (1954) led the French to retreat.

Ho Chi Minh decided to split up Vietnam into two at the 17th parallel where Ho Chi Minh governed the North and Ngo Dinh Diem would govern the south. This upset Vietminh members but Ho Chi Minh said this was a temporary decision. Ho Chi Minh had a few doubts that the Vietnamese people wanted a communist government. The Geneva Accords that was signed between the French and



the Vietnam said that the communist forces should regroup in the north and the non-communist should regroup in the south. North Vietnam became a Communist-led single party state. Six years after his death, the communists were successful.

Ngo Dinh Diem opposed communism and the French colonialism. Diem said that he would make a good leader for Vietnam after the French retreat. After Diem was given the position of president of South Vietnam, the U.S was very supportive and Diem always turned down any advice from the U.S. Diem made decisions that upset South Vietnam often and there were thoughts on overthrowing him. Diem won the election against Bo Dai. Also Diem refused the General election and through the opposing party members approximately 100,000 in prison camps. Communist and Socialist were his main target. Diem was catholic and majority of Vietnam being Buddhist he opposed them. Many attempts were made to kill Diem but the CIA were there to protect him, however after Kennedy saw the suicide rate of the Buddhist he decided to change the role of the CIA. In 1963 Diem was overthrown by the military coup and asked to leave the country but in a change of mind the generals decided to kill him. He was replaced by Nguyen Van Thieu. Today Vietnam is still a communist country and wants to be strong and independent just like when the cold war was going on. This concludes that the cold war is still going on today .

### Conclusion

The Cold War is a very controversial topic, many wonder whether the cold war has ended or still continues on to this very day. The Cold War is still going on in Vietnam because it is still a communist country and the CPV's aim is to make Vietnam a strong independent country and have a civilized society; this is similar to the goal vietnam during the actual cold war which is clear that the cold

war is not over yet in Vietnam because there is still competition and rivalry between us and the United States for example. The U.S is meddling in our country and enforcing some actions relating to human rights protection programs. This shows that we still have problems with the capitalist country and that the cold war is not quite over. The cold war is still going on now because we still haven't unified as a country, there are still some struggles that we have as a communist country. There is also the tension between the North and South part of vietnam in their resource goods. This all proves that the Cold War still continues on till this very day.