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PRESIDENT THIEU'S SPEECH ON T.V.

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While hoping for peace with justice and honor, and the coming of an area of constructive cooperation in Southeast Asia, I cannot help but feeling concerned by the turn of events in Czechoslovakia in the past few days, and their portentous significance for the cause of freedom, and national independence everywhere.

We are fighting in Viet Nam for the principle of non-interference in internal affairs of sovereign states, for the right for every nation to live peace, and to choose its own way of live, and its own path to the future, Free from coercion and subjugation.

We also deeply believe that the respect of these fundamental rights is indispensable to a durable peace in the world. We therefore deeply deplore the brutal repression of the budding aspirations of the Czechoslovakia people for freedom, independence, and human dignity.

After the Hungarian events and the peasants' revolt in North Viet Nam in 1956, the recent efforts toward liberalization and deocratization in Czechoslovakia show the deep aspirations for freedom among men everywhere. They also show that freedom is always ruthlessly repressed in a Communist Society, because even the timid expressions of freedom represent already a serious threat to Communist tyranny, a threat by itself and by the effects of the example.

Another lesson to be drawn from the Hungarian Czechoslovak events is that national independence in the Communist world is only a myth, especially when a small Communist country lives next to a big Communist neighbor.

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These events reveal the emptiness and the tragic irony of the Communist claims to fight for the "liberation" of the Republic of Viet Nam, by attempting to impose by force a regime obedient to international Communism, and, in doing so, pretending to be the standard bearers of Vietnamese national independence.

The Communist regime in North Viet Nam has been trying to impose by force a political regime on the people of the RVN invoking the pretenses of helping the local Communists and pretending having the right to do so in the same fashion that Soviet Russia invades Czechoslovakia under the pretense of aiding the Czechoslovak Communists. The Communist North Vietnamese do not realize that, suppose they succeed in their criminal attempts against the freedom of the RVN, they themselves are only an easy prey for their big Communist neighbor.

A free society therefore is not only the necessary framework for the progress and the happiness of the Vietnamese people, it constitutes also the best guarantee for the national independence of Viet Nam, by providing us the solidary efforts of other free countries for the defense of our national entity and the common security of the Free World.

Therefore our misguided citizens who have been deluded by Communist propaganda should ponder about the Government's policy on national reconciliation, and the recent events in the Communist World to find the right path to the truth and the salvation of the country.