ON SOME ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION IN ASIA

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The world today is by no means tranquil. With various contradictions developing further, the whole globe is witnessing greater tension and turbulence, while the increasingly grim situation in Asia is sharpening people's sense of insecurity.

THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES: ATTACHING GREATER IMPORTANCE TO ASIA

While contending fiercely with each other in Europe and the Middle East, in recent years the two super-powers have increasingly placed Asia in a prominent position in their global strategies.

The Soviet Union has taken advantage of the United States' "retreat" from Asia, a result of its failed war of aggression in Indochina, Vietnamese authorities looked to the Soviet Union for backing in their subsequent aggression and expansion in Southeast Asia, a regional hegemonist policy. The Soviet Union thus gained a foothold, and then set up military bases in Vietnam through supporting the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea. All in all, the Soviet Union has extended the sphere of its naval and air force activities southward by 5000 kilometers. The Soviet Union has also edged nearer to the Persian Gulf by directly sending troops to invade Afghanistan. It may be said that the control over Indo-China and the occupation of Afghanistan constitute two major steps in the Soviet pursuance of its strategy of a southward thrust. Moreover, the Soviets are strengthening their military presence in East Asia on an unprecedented scale and at an unprecedented speed, far exceeding defensive needs. Such momentum in the Soviet efforts to intensify its military deployment and expansionist activities will still continue. By doing this, the Soviet Union aims chiefly at preparing to fight a war on two or more fronts with the United States in their rivalry for world hegemony, cutting off, when necessary, sea routes vital to the United States and the entire West and, from the flank, posing a threat to the United States and NATO members.

The American position and influence in Asia has been further weakened since the end of the Indochinese War. For awhile the United

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States was on the defensive in its contention with the Soviet Union. After several years of endeavor, the United States has strengthened its cooperation with Japan and improved its relations with the ASEAN countries, enabling it to declare openly and emphatically that it will come back to Asia to effectively contain the Soviet's military deployment and expansionist activities in this region. The U.S. seeks to establish an overall superiority in its rivalry with the Soviet Union for hegemony, as well as to strengthen its strategic position in the region. With this purpose in mind, the United States has adopted a series of quid pro quo measures.

Events have shown that the confrontation and contention in Asia between the two superpowers have aggravated the regional tension, posing a grave threat to peace and security in Asia. It is hardly a good omen that they are both attaching greater attention to Asia strategically and in their military deployment.

Proceeding from its independent foreign policy, with the goal of maintaining peace and security in Asia, China stands for easing and stabilizing the Asian situation and opposes any actions aggravating the tension.

**AFGHANISTAN AND KAMPUCHEA**

With the support of the international community, the Afghan and Kampuchean people are continuing to do better in their war against aggression, while the aggressors themselves have landed in an increasingly awkward predicament. As long as the peoples of the two countries persist in fighting against aggression and the international community continues to give them resolute and powerful support, the aggressors will inevitably be forced to leave the two countries; only thus is it possible to achieve a real resolution of the Afghan and Kampuchean problems. A political compromise with the aggressors before they undertake withdrawal of their troops would mean acceptance of the *fait accompli* brought about by aggression and tolerance toward the aggressors. Moreover, the relevant UN resolutions would consequently be reduced to nothing but scraps of paper.

In recent years, the Vietnamese authorities, in an attempt to extricate themselves from their predicament both at home and abroad, have time and again engaged in such tricks as “regional talks” and “partial withdrawal of troops” in an effort to befuddle world opinion, split the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, and sow discord among the ASEAN countries. But such work by the Vietnamese authorities will come to no success.

It is a noteworthy development that Vietnam has begun to step up its policy of Vietnamization of Kampuchea. This should not in the least be neglected by the international community. The Vietnamese authorities are also peddling the fallacious so-called “Chinese threat,” asserting that they will withdraw their troops from Kampuchea only after the removal of the “Chinese threat.” This only serves to show their ulterior motives.