

Responsible: Mr. MAUNOIR

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HOI CHU THAP DO
NUOC VIET-NAM DAN CHU CONG HOA

Dien tin: VIETNAMCROSS-HANOI

Mr. Samuel A. Conard
President
International Committee
of the Red Cross
G e n e v a

Mr. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ President:

The beautiful days of May, luminous and flourishing, have returned. While the peoples of many countries in the world are celebrating in the midst of joy these international holidays, such as the 1st and 8th of May, which are full of significance, we cannot help drawing your attention more especially on the new and extremely barbarous crimes committed by the American imperialists against the Vietnamese people in the course of the first five months of this year.

Parallel, in fact, with the massive introduction of fresh supplies of troops to the South Vietnam, thus raising the total strength of the expeditionary force of the United States and the satellite countries to over 270,000 men (on April 25, 1966), the American imperialists have feverishly reinforced their "escalade" in North Vietnam and have intensified their airraids over the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

While using B.52 bombers for the purpose of raiding several times a locality in the province of Quang binh, they dispatched their "jets" in barbarous airraiding missions against the towns of Nam-dinh and Vinh, the county towns of Phu ly, Ninh binh and numerous other populous localities in North Vietnam. More serious still, they have raided and raked the suburbs of Hanoi, the outskirts of the port of Haiphong, the power-station of Uong bi, the dam of Thacba, and the industrial plants at Cam pha. Churches, hospitals, schools and populous districts are their main objectives, which enables them to massacre catholic priests and believers, the sick and children.

On May 5, 1966, the small Seminary of Xa doai in the commune of Nghi dien, district of Nghi loc, province of Nghe-an, was raided by American jet planes. The church and the school were seriously damaged; the portraits and statues of the Saints were smashed to atoms, the head-priest of the Seminary was seriously injured. On April 24, 1966 the American air pirates raided a group of 86 inhabitants (42 dead and 44 wounded), all catholics going to Vespers

at that time, and destroyed 25 houses. On January 31, 1966 American airplanes raided Thanh and the primary school of Hai Hoa, killing and wounding 24 school-children. On February 9, 1966 the secondary school of Huong Phuc in the district of Kuong Khe, province of Ma-tinh was also raided by the American aircrafts, killing and wounding 57 school-children and 8 civilians. On May 6, 1966, the American imperialists sent again aircraft to raid and raze the new equipment of the leper-hospital at Quynh Lap in the commune of Quynh Loc, district of Quynh Luu, in the province of Nghe An, killing 30 and wounding 34, and destroying a certain number of buildings.

A more serious fact still: in South Vietnam, the American imperialists have intensified the use of chemical products and poisonous gas as a means of warfare, making every day greater use of this method. Ever since the use made by them, on the quiet, of so-called "herbicides" and "defoliators", explaining their action by means of twisted justifications, government circles in the United States have recently declared in a brazenly manner that they are also using combat gas, since this is considered a "basic standard weapon" of the American forces. For the purpose of thus backing up their criminal actions, the American authorities have brought the so-called "mobile laboratory" forming part of the American group for study of the chemical and bacteriological war No. 406, to South Vietnam. With the help of west-German militarists, they have built in South Vietnam a certain number of gas plants producing "combat gas". By means of extremely inhuman chemical war means, the American imperialists and their agents have made tens of thousands of victims due to intoxication, of whom thousands have died; millions of domestic animals have been massacred and hundreds of thousands of hectares of rice plantations, crops, orchards and gardens have been devastated.

The American imperialists have chosen precisely the date of May 8th, International Red Cross Day, a day on which thoughts and actions should take on a humanitarian character, in order to spread 3,200 kilos of poisonous gas, in the hope of doing away with the population of a region in the province of Tay Ninh, 112 kilometers north-west of Saigon, close to the Cambodian border. For a whole week they have released more than 12 tons of poisonous gas over the province of Tay-Ninh, and for 11 days consecutively they have, by means of B.52 bombers, daily raided this region blindly, in order to destroy the hamlets, the villages and the forests.

On this same May 8th, several formations of American aircraft raided populous districts of the provinces of Quang-Ninh, Bac Thai, Lang Son in North Vietnam. However, they have been rightly punished and 6 American aircraft have been brought down.

The American imperialists and their various satellites and agents are cruel and barbarous war criminals, similar to the partisans of Hitler who have been hanged by the Nurembourg court and punished by the Allies over twenty years ago. Their crimes, made known by the Vietnamese people and condemned by the peoples of the world, are attempted to be justified by the American imperialists in a distorted manner; they have even gone as far as to resort to misleading maneuvers in suggesting to have an investigation conducted to have the truth detected! Their crimes are flagrant, as clear and clearer than daylight! The heroic people of Vietnam, both in the North and in the South, has chastised them while they committed their crimes, and will have them tried according the Vietnamese law.

Mr. ~~Oban~~ President:

We could not, in one single letter, report to you all the crimes of the American imperialists and their agents. Their acts of cruelty are innumerable and the hatred felt for them by our people is boundless. The American imperialists have trampled under foot the most primitive human rights, they have seriously violated the Geneva Convention of 1954 on the Vietnam, the Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925, and the Geneva Conventions of 1949, as well as the laws and other war customs.

The Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is once more, in the interest of humanity, of peace, of justice and of the just cause, making known to the ICRC and the national Red Cross Societies as well as the progressive opinion in the whole world, the extremely barbarous war crimes of the American imperialists, their satellites and their agents in the Vietnam.

The Vietnamese people which is very deeply attached to independence, freedom, peace and the reunification of its country, is firmly decided to defend its sacred rights until complete victory is achieved. The American imperialists must respect the basic and inalienable national rights of our people, withdraw from South Vietnam and leave it to our people to solve by itself its internal affairs.

President

Please accept, Mr. ~~Oban~~, our respectful salutations.

For: THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

The President

Docteur VU DINH TUNG

Enclosure:

6 photographs

VISTeiner

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photographs (b)