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Central Party Headquarters

Communication

Concerning a Proposal to Change the Name of the Party

Distribution: From the Central Committee to All Party Echelons

I. The Problem:

1. Today we are struggling in a new historical framework:

- a. During the second world war, the USSR made many sacrifices, and aided many other peoples to escape the Hitler gang, to establish socialism, and to overthrow capitalism. After the war, the USSR strongly aided revolutions in all countries of the world with successful results. The Soviet Communist Party is truly the leader of the movement to bring world Communism to fulfillment.
- b. Today the world is divided into two camps - the democratic camp fighting imperialism under the leadership of the USSR, and the international reactionary camp headed by the US. The democratic camp is growing stronger each day. The imperialist camp is growing weaker each day. The recent victory of the Chinese people has shown that the strength of the democratic peoples is increasing and that imperialist strength is finished.
- c. In many countries, the Communist parties and the workers have led in three movements: thought, political matters, and organization. They also hold places of authority within the countries. In addition to the Soviet Communist Party, a number of Communist parties hold governmental authority. The strong inspiration and the influence of many Communist parties have made the masses of the people understand that Communist leadership has become the leadership of their nation.

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- d. The US imperialists and their gang are carrying out a policy of fomenting confusion, seeking profit, and causing oppression in the countries under their general control. Today they are urgently preparing a third world war, hoping to destroy Soviet Communism and all the people's democracies, have decided to use atomic weapons to destroy people in all countries, and are seeking to bring an economic crisis upon them. They are trying to find a way to divide the working class and the workers' party, to divide the people's armies in every country, and to create bitterness among nations.
 - e. Before the ever growing strength of the people's democracies and of socialism, and the ever growing financial crisis of the capitalists, a number of capitalist monopolies in countries of Europe and America have sold out their national earnings to the US imperialists, and have become puppets and servants of the US. Discouraged with this imperialist group which is seeking to create confusion and foment war, the middle classes of some capitalist countries are leaning toward the working class, the class of true and determined patriots with strong democratic ideals. The workers and other classes of working peoples are struggling to defend democratic freedom and national independence.
2. In recent times, Communists throughout the world have applied a flexible and bold strategy in order to create and protect the unity of the working class. The strong echelons are ever increasing their strength in united national fronts under the leadership of both the working class and the Party: Resisting the imperialist fomenters of war, preserving independence and democracy, defending peace.
 3. The situation in Indochina has greatly altered from the time of the August Revolution to the present:
 - a. The August Revolution separated Vietnam from French Indochina and created an independent, democratic country. Vietnam is now advancing on the road to a people's democracy and stands with the democratic group resisting the imperialists, under the leadership of the Soviet Union.
 - b. The three peoples of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos have formed a resistance party in order to destroy the French colonialists who have ravished their country, to resist the American interventionists, to preserve democratic independence and to defend peace. However, Vietnam must still develop a people's democratic regime. When this is accomplished, Vietnam's task will not be complete, for it must push forward its task with Cambodia and Laos.
 - c. If one wants an Indochinese Government, one must join in the resistance war of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. The French colonialists and the US imperialists are trying to destroy the peoples of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, are trying to divide the nation internally, to divide the workers, and to keep the Communists from leading these people. However, if the resistance is to succeed, the peoples of Indochina must have a united spirit, a new organization of peoples united under the leadership of the workers.
 - d. In 1945, the Communist Party of Indochina voluntarily entered into secrecy. Because the authority of the national and the people's government were under its leadership, the party proclaimed its dissolution. But really free, the party still survived and led the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian nations in resistance.

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Today it is strong, in the nation as in the world. The Vietnamese Communists with the masses under their leadership, and all classes of workers and the entire Vietnamese people, are resisting the imperialist exploiters and creating a new Vietnam. They are developing a democratic people's regime, and advancing socialism.

4. In the present world circumstances and in Vietnam today, Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian Communists must solve the problem of the name of the Party as follows:
 - a. Have not the three states of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos formed in common a Communist Party that is now unified?
 - b. The Communist organization of the three countries will have another name in order to show their solidarity under the leadership of the United National Resistance Party, and their determination to destroy the French colonialist exploiters and to resist the US interventionists and the puppets of the French and US.
5. After examining the situation objectively and subjectively, both within and without the country, the Central Headquarters conference on 21-23 June 1950 proposed that:
 - a. The Indochinese Party divide itself into three national parties of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.
 - b. The political party of the Vietnamese Communists be known as the Dang Lao Dong Viet Nam (Vietnamese Workers' Party). The name of the parties of Cambodia and Laos will be proposed later, because the party is still seeking the opinions of the Cambodian and Laotian Party headquarters.
 - c. The Party must be open to the public.

II. Why Vietnam must have a Special Revolutionary Party for the Working Class:

6. It is essential for the following reasons:
 - a. Although the three nations on the Indochinese peninsula have a common enemy in the French colonialists, they are on different levels economically, politically, socially, and culturally.

After the August Revolution, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam emerged, with the result that Vietnam has a different status from Cambodia and Laos. Vietnam has a new democratic regime politically, economically, culturally, while Cambodia and Laos have a different government in regions with bases of operation of the guerrilla type.

So, at present, the quality and strength of the Vietnamese revolution differs from the Cambodian and Laotian revolutions, although the Vietnamese revolution firmly aims to combat the imperialists and their puppets as do the revolutions of the other two countries. The task of the Vietnamese Revolution is to complete the nationalist liberation and to develop the people's democratic regime, and to advance socialism, whereas the task of the Cambodian and Laotian revolutions is to liberate the country, and to create a people's democracy. The character and strength of the revolution require a special party.

- b. At this point, the Party must decide whether keeping the name Indochinese Party would be disadvantageous to the work of aiding the Cambodian and Laotian revolutions through the Vietnamese revolution, because nationalist elements in Cambodia and Laos may have reservations about such Vietnamese aid. They will possibly

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suspect that Vietnam is trying to gain control of their countries; the imperialists and their servants will find an opportunity to spread propaganda, to divide the Vietnamese from the peoples of Cambodia and Laos, so that the latter peoples will abandon the task of uniting against the French, which would have unfortunate repercussions.

- c. Separate into three Parties. This is a method for developing revolutionary spirit in Cambodia and Laos.

For the above reasons, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos must all have their own special revolutionary party of the working class.

7. The creation in the three countries of three Parties will not be harmful to a special revolutionary movement for Indochina, i.e., for Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.
 - a. In 1930, we gave great importance to the creation of a Communist Party of Indochina not only because Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos have a common oppressor and a common enemy, but because the revolutionary movement had strength only in Vietnam, and was still weak in Cambodia and Laos. The question is whether, if there were not a united Communist Party for the three countries, the determination to instigate the revolutionary and Communist movement in Cambodia and Laos would be retarded.

But today the situation has changed. The peoples of Cambodia and Laos are now fighting the French, asserting their independence. The Cambodian and Laotian Communist Parties have been definitely established and are beginning to progress. They have a united national front for liberation committee; Laos has a resistance government, etc. In those organizations there have been many loyal and persistent Communist groups (Indochinese Party forces). The creation of a special Vietnamese Workers' Party today will not weaken the revolutionary leadership in Cambodia and Laos nor curb the propagation of Marxist-Leninist principles. And the Vietnamese Party still has the responsibility of directly aiding the Parties of their Cambodian and Laotian comrades.

- b. Each of the three nations has a Party, but among the three parties there remain unity of action and unity of leadership. There are many means of united action and general solidarity such as the Central Vietnamese Workers' Party which has a section responsible for aiding the revolutions of Cambodia and Laos, a general assembly of the three countries to decide questions involving the three parties and three peoples, in a United National Front movement (van dong mat tran thong nhap Viet, Meu, Lao).
- c. Militarily Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos have a common battlefield; Vietnam has aided Cambodia and Laos militarily as well as in other aspects, so that it is not just a special Vietnamese Party and includes activities in unity with the others, such as resistance of the three nations against the imperialists.

Purpose: Afterwards, if conditions permit, the three Revolutionary Parties will be able to form one united party: The Federation of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos (Indochinese Federation).

III. Why the Revolutionary Party of the Vietnamese Working Class Is Taking the Name of Vietnamese Workers' Party (Dang Lao Dong Vietnam)

8. Above we have explained why we must take the name Vietnamese Party. Below is explained why we are taking the name Vietnamese Workers' Party. First of all we must recognize that: in 1918, Lenin pointed out to the revolutionary parties of the working classes throughout the world that they must take the

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name of Communist Party in order to avoid being confused with the Democratic Socialist parties. Today the situation has changed, Communist strength has increased, as has Communist organization. Now, it is possible to take another name which is profitable to the revolutionary party. Whatever name it is under, the active group within the Communist Party will still defend its principles which are:

- a. The principles of the party are still the principles of Marx and Lenin.
 - b. The party organization will still conform to the principles of democratic centralization.
 - c. The rule for developing the party is still criticism and self-criticism.
9. The name of the party is only a problem of strategy capable of changing according to time and circumstances. In the present circumstances, the party is taking the name of Workers' Party which has the advantages cited below:

- a. Our party must complete the task of liberating the country. The name "Workers' Party" has the advantage of uniting the entire people against the imperialists and colonialists, enabling the formation of a united national front on the basis of an alliance with the farmers and under the leadership of the working class, more than does the name Communist.

There are many conditions essential to the achievement of this great unity and solid national front which is the political doctrine of the Party, e.g., the clear use of party action. But in practice we must move lightly. If we preserve the name "Communist", a number of capitalists, patriotic landowners, progressive intellectuals and religious believers, who have not yet joined us, or not fully joined us, will be hesitant and afraid of us.

- b. The name Workers' Party is also advantageous in creating a spirit of brotherhood and indeveloping all classes of workers. Especially among the masses of religious followers (Catholics, Hoa Hao, Cao-daiists) in free or occupied zones the Party will be followed more easily than if its title is the Communist Party. Thus, the new party name will rapidly create a political party having a solid mass character. When the party is strong and the power of the leadership of the working class is consolidated, the policy of the new party will have been achieved.
- c. After the party has officially announced the name of Workers' Party (Lao Dong), President Ho Chi Minh and the official leaders will proclaim it in common, within the party, in order to get a more favorable reception. The position of Ho Chi Minh as the official leader of the Party will have a great influence within and without the country.
- d. After announcing the dissolution of the party in November 1945, we are now taking a new name in order to make the spread of propaganda more successful.
- e. Nevertheless, it is still our duty to aid the revolutions of Cambodia and Laos and we must still help the revolutionary movements in all the countries of Southeast Asia such as Malaya, Indonesia, Burma, etc. In all these countries, the revolutionary movement today is terrifying the imperialist group; the name of the Communist Party is forbidden. If we fight as the Workers' Party, aid to revolutionary movements in those countries will be more successful.

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- f. Today, throughout the world, there are many Communist parties or Marxist-Leninist Study groups of the working classes which do not go under the name of Communist Party. For example: Poland has a United Polish Workers' Party; Hungary has a Hungarian Workers' Party; Albania has an Albanian Workers' Party; East Germany has a United German Socialist Party; Korea has a Korean Workers' Party.
10. But our party has a different reason, a unique reason for having the new name. Our purposes in having this name are: unity of the working class and a revolutionary party of the workers, uniting the national and democratic strength under the leadership of the Party in order to resist the imperialists and their puppets, to seize power and to consolidate the peoples democratic regime, to advance socialism, protect national independence, and lasting peace in the world.
11. The name Workers' Party is advantageous:
- As stated above, the party, in changing its name, keeps its identity, so that Party members should not misunderstand and think that class positions or principles have been abolished. If educational work still is important in party thought, and the party attaches importance to it, then members will understand the importance of party policy, of spreading Marxist-Leninist principles and creating and preserving the revolutionary domain of the working class.
 - The party considers it important to develop in all echelons of the workers in cities and villages, especially among the workers and farmers, conditions for bringing the members into close unity, so that there is no obstacle in the party's assuming the name "Workers'" and the party's composition becoming complex. On the contrary, in taking a new name and making it known officially, the party may attract some elements by pure chance or occasion, so that the party is joined with the masses seeking its ranks, and becomes a Party with a different system.
 - Given the policy and activities of the Vietnam Workers' Party, the working masses, especially those who for a long time have belonged to the Communist Party of Indochina or have been Communist sympathizers, will realize that the Vietnam Workers' Party is in reality the Communist Party of Indochina. The Vietnam Workers' Party carries on the enterprises and inherits the revolution of the Indochinese Communist Party; the path of the Vietnam Workers' Party is the same as that of the Communist Party of Indochina. Thus, because the party takes a different name, the masses will not be abandoned nor their confidence in the party be misplaced.
 - The new Communist organization need not fear that the imperialists will exploit their servants into creating a false Communist party in order to deceive the masses, because our propaganda will warn them of such a maneuver, of the attitude and activities of a false Communist movement; the masses will be able to distinguish falsehood and will not be duped. The experience in West Germany proves that false "Communism" and "Soviet Resistance" in West Germany as created by the imperialists has proved a failure with regard to the working masses.

IV. Conclusion:

12. In resume, the name Vietnam Workers' Party today is necessary and advantageous.
13. Aim: Later, when conditions are favorable, the Vietnam Workers' Party will again be called the Communist Party.

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14. This is the opinion of the Central Party Headquarters concerning the changing of the party name; it is hoped that all DC will discuss and approve the opinion of the Central Committee, so that the Committee can discuss the actual proposal at the Party General Assembly.
15. In order to be kept confidential, these communications will be examined only on Provincial levels.

22 June 1950
T/L Central Headquarters
Communist Party of Indochina

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[redacted] Comment. The extracts from a Communist Party directive concerning the adoption of the name Workers Party, contained in [redacted] were apparently provincial directives prompted by the receipt of the proposals contained in this report.

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