ON February 5 the Socialist Republic of Vietnam issued a statement calling for negotiations on the border dispute with Cambodia.

"The government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Vietnamese people once again reaffirm that their unswerving principled position is to resolutely defend the independence, freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Vietnam and at the same time to consistently respect the independence, freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kampuchea (Cambodia) as well as other countries and to uphold the solidarity with the Kampuchean people, in main completely efforts to rapidly settle problems concerning the relation between the two countries through negotiations.

Vietnam and Kampuchea are two neighbouring countries; they have long been together in the struggle against the common enemy - imperialist aggressors - to secure independence and freedom. Now they share the earnest aspirations to strengthen their solidarity, long-term cooperation and mutual assistance in building their respective countries into prosperous ones in keeping with the specific conditions of each country...."

The 1962 border agreement between the People's Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam and the then ruler of Kampuchea Prince Sihanouk, worked very well all through the years of war against US imperialism. We hope the two fraternal socialist countries will be able to sit around the conference table and agree on such a border settlement now.